Filipinos say no to cha-cha, new survey shows

STORY ON PAGE A2

Lacson faces raps for hidden assets

By Philip Tubeza

FOR failing to declare his true assets here and abroad, Sen. Panfilo Lacson was charged before the Office of the Ombudsman yesterday. The National Bureau of Investigation based the charges on the consolidated report the US Justice Department gave the government last May,

LACSON/A17

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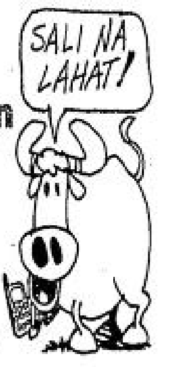
SALI NA LAHAT!

By Abigail L. Ho

THE PHILIPPINES isn't being touted as the world's texting capital for nothing. Even the scheduled visit of Pope

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Saturday, August 17, 2002 ★ 70 pages / 7 sections / vol.17 / no. 250 P15
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GMA or Roco: Allies to face tough choice

By quitting, Raul blew it, says Gloria

By Carlito Pablo

RAUL Roco blew his chance to prove his accusers wrong "in a fair investigation" by resigning as education secretary.

Malacañang said as much in a prepared statement read by Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye yesterday afternoon, after President Macapagal-Arroyo formally accepted Roco's resignation in an hour-long meeting.

"Secretary Roco's resignation is an unfortunate reaction to what is after all the common situation of all public servants, which is to be open to all types of public complaints and to defend one's self in a fair investigation," Malacañang said, adding:

"His resignation is even more unfortunate as the investigation that had just been started is also an opportunity to show these charges as unfounded."

The Palace likewise defended Ms Macapagal's endorsement of the complaint filed against Roco to the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission.

"We are all duty-bound to resolve complaints from the people we serve," it said.

Malacañang expressed the President's "deep sadness in the loss of a good public servant."

"(She) regards this as merely the end of one chapter in Secretary Roco's service to the people," it said. "She looks forward to working with him in some other capacity in the future."

After two aborted meetings, Roco finally sat with the President in Malacañang starting at

BY/A6

NO TO WARS of AGGRESSION; Learn from the lessons of WORLD WAR II!
LILA-PILIPINA
GABRIELA

AFP

COMFORT FOR THE AFFLICTED

To mark the anniversary of the end of World War II 57 years ago last Aug. 15, "comfort" women like Cristela Alcover, 76, held a rally at the Japanese Embassy to demand justice and compensation from its government.

Leaders see split in ruling coalition

By Juliet L. Javellana and Cynthia D. Balana

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo should reconcile with Raul Roco so as not to force the administration coalition to choose between them as standard-bearer in 2004.

Batanes Rep. Florencio "Butch" Abad, president of the Liberal Party, issued this warning yesterday, saying Roco's statements Thursday that he would neither return to the Cabinet nor leave the People Power Coalition had created a "complication" in the PPC's plans for the 2004 presidential polls.

Abad said in a phone interview that prior to the public disagreement between the President and her resigned education secretary, no one from the opposition appeared to be a formidable contender. But "with what happened to Roco," leader of the Aksyong Demokratiko party, "*nagkaroon ng mukha ang makakalaban ni GMA* (her potential foe now has a face)," Abad said.

He said that if Roco stuck with the PPC and presented himself as a presidential candidate, "then the coalition will be made to choose between him and GMA."

The Liberal Party recently named the President its honorary chair.

Another congressman belonging to the PPC who asked not to be named said a "breakaway" faction of the coalition was considering a team-up between Roco and Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda as an "alternative" to Ms Macapagal and her chosen running mate.

The lawmaker told the INQUIRER that Roco could serve as

GMA/A6

Leftist solons fear 'pork' freeze

THE CONTEMPLATIVE life is how Jose Ma. Sison describes his lifestyle in Utrecht. AP

By Gerald G. Lacuarta and Cynthia Balana

ARE the official bank accounts of three Bayan Muna party-list representatives next on the freeze list?

The militant congressmen identified with the Left yesterday raised fears that the international clampdown on funding sources of communist rebels might affect even their congressional projects. Rep. Crispin Beltran said President Macapagal-Arroyo had "essentially included" Bayan Muna and the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) in her list of communist organizations.

Beltran said the government's threat to freeze the assets of the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army could have an impact on Bayan Muna projects that are being carried out through the congressional Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF), euphemism for "pork barrel" funds.

In the Senate, a former Armed Forces chief of staff said the government must prepare for a leaderless New People's Army after communist founder Jose Ma. Sison signaled his intention to resign as party chair. Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said the rebel group might end up fragmenting into "Lost Commands" pursuing non-revolutionary but criminal activities.

In Malacañang, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye greeted the news of Sison's alleged impending retirement with undisguised sarcasm. "If Joma is thinking of retirement, I hope he enjoys his retirement and he enjoys the contributions from the people he duped," the usually affable Bunye said. He did say, however, that the government will continue to seek peace talks with the CPP-NPA.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez announced that he had already asked the Anti-Money Laundering Council to "freeze any monetary instrument or property alleged to be the proceeds of any unlawful activity" of the CPP-NPA.

"The appropriate government agencies are now working to identify any accounts or

LEFTIST/A17

Gloria hails courage of kidnap victim

By Gia Damaso-Dumo and Peter La. Julian
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

SAN FERNANDO CITY, La Union—President Macapagal-Arroyo flew by helicopter to this northern city to lend moral support to a Chinese-Filipino kidnap victim before the latter testified against her Chinese kidnappers during a court hearing.

Ms Macapagal met with Jackie Rowena Tiu, 29, and her family at the Tiu's Capital Lumber office to give encouragement to them. She said Tiu "deserved the support of the pillars of the criminal justice system, from

GLORIA/A5

Nacorda thanks Senate, but what about ransom?

By Julie S. Alipala and PDI News Bureaus

LAMITAN, Basilan—"Our prayers were finally heard."

A trembling Fr. Cirilo Nacorda said yesterday he was elated to learn that the Senate committee on national defense and security had confirmed his allegations that the military colluded with the Abu Sayyaf during the siege of Lamitan in June last year.

Nacorda, bedridden with fever and cough for almost two weeks now, told the INQUIRER that he was "really surprised but at the same time very happy." He said he had been laboring under the impression that the charges were already forgotten.

"I did not expect that our Senate could come up with a decision," he said, adding he was sure that the people of Lamitan were also rejoicing over the chamber's findings.

In an interview with Bombo Radyo in Tacloban City, Maj. Gen. Romeo Dominguez said he welcomed the recommendation of the Senate committee to have him and two other Army officers face court martial proceedings for their alleged collusion with the Abu Sayyaf.

"Court martial is a very good venue (when) compared with the (committee) hearing (where) your lawyers cannot cross-examine your accusers," said Dominguez, who now heads the Army's 8th Infantry Division in Catbalogan, Samar.

But Dominguez said he had no qualms attending the Senate inquiry. "I have nothing to hide. My conscience is clear and I have never betrayed my oath as an officer," he declared.

A draft report of the defense committee said that along with the committee on justice and human rights, it would recommend the "convening of a court martial to pursue

NACORDA/A17

NO TO IRMA!
NAGLULUKSA KAMI SA PAGKAMATAY NG BUREAU

JOAN BONDOC

WHO'S IRMA?

Bureau of Internal Revenue employees stage a protest rally on Friday outside the BIR building in Quezon City against the Internal Revenue Management Authority (Irma), a pending bill now in its second reading at the House of Representatives. Earlier, employees had vacated the building due to a bomb threat.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The Western sections of Central and Southern Luzon and Western Visayas will experience monsoon rains. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy with scattered rainshowers.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/08/17/02

Metro Manila	Occasional Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Monsoon Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Monsoon Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Occasional Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Occasional Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Monsoon Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Second FRONT PAGE

No to cha-cha, new survey shows

By Juliet Labog Javellana

DESPITE the aggressive efforts of its congressional proponents, charter change has "skidded from the minds of most Filipinos," according to the latest Pulse Asia survey.

Majority of Filipinos are against constitutional change at this time, contradicting the claim of 21 political parties and legislators that there was a unanimous nationwide clamor to amend or change the 1987 Constitution, according to Pulse Asia.

The survey, conducted on July 13 to July 27, said 64 percent felt it was not right to amend the charter now.

Only 36 percent said amending the charter now was the correct thing to do.

The latest findings were a reverse of the majority support found in an April survey in which 55 percent agreed that some constitutional provisions needed to be changed.

"And even among those clamoring for amendments, the changes they want to see have nothing to do with switching to a parliamentary or federal system of government," said Emmanuel San Andres, Pulse Asia junior research associate.

Not in agenda

Except for Mindanao, which has long been clamoring for stronger political representation, a constitutional overhaul was "not high on Filipinos' agenda right now," San Andres said.

Pulse Asia also found that 45 percent of those supporting "cha-cha" were not in favor of switching to a parliamentary form of government and 49 percent opposed adopting a federal system.

Attempting to explain the public's sudden reversal of support for charter change, San Andres said economic problems may have been one factor.

"This is just my opinion but I think that during this period, economic problems are high on the minds of Filipinos," he said in a phone interview.

"They were more concerned about the PPA (purchased power adjustment) and where to get food than amending the Constitution," he said.

But San Andres noted that there has been a gradual increase in support for charter change since 1999 when Pulse Asia started polling respondents on the issue.

Pro cha-cha in April

Pulse Asia data showed support for cha-cha was recorded at 39 percent in September 1999, 40 percent in December 1999, 45 percent in March 2000, 49 percent in July 2000, 50 percent in October 2001, 52 percent in December 2001 culminating in the highest support last April, at 55 percent.

It was only in July that opposition to charter change "again reached majority level," San Andres said.

The survey included 1,200 respondents and had an error margin of plus or minus three percent, with a 95 percent confidence level.

In his report, San Andres said cha-cha has "skidded from the minds of Filipinos" despite its revival by Congress and other advocates.

Majority of legislators appear to favor a shift from the presidential and unitary form of government to a parliamentary system with a federal government.

Anytime now, the House committee on constitutional amendments will vote on a measure seeking to convene the Senate and the House as a constituent assembly to amend the charter.

At the political party summit led by the ruling Lakas in May, 21 parties issued a joint declaration centered on the need for constitutional reforms.

The parties, however, put in a caveat that cha-cha should be undertaken only after the 2004 presidential elections.

San Andres said the legislators' claim that the clamor for cha-cha was unanimous was not supported by statistics.

"It shows that while Congress tried to revive the issue, it was not picked up by the people," he said.

Loudest no in Luzon

Pulse Asia found the strongest opposition to cha-cha in Luzon (73 percent against) and the greatest support for it in Mindanao (52 percent for).

The Visayas registered 63 percent against and 37 percent supportive.

Metro Manila, with 66 percent against, echoed the national sentiment.

And the opposition to cha-cha this time cut across social classes. The top ABC classes registered 58 percent against and 42 percent supportive while lower down the scale, class D registered 64 percent against and 36 percent in favor.

The poorest class E registered 67 percent against and 33 percent for cha-cha.

Females outvoted males in opposition, with 66 percent of females against 62 percent males opposed. Opposition was higher among the older age groups.

Parliamentary form nixed

Of those in favor of cha-cha, only 34 percent favored switching to a parliamentary system and 21 percent were undecided. The plurality of 45 percent was against this shift.

In Metro Manila, 48 percent supported the idea of having a Philippine prime minister but 36 percent were opposed and 16 percent were undecided.

Half of the Visayas and 59 percent of Luzon respondents were opposed to the shift.

On the other hand, a plurality of Mindanao supported a change in the system of government, with 48 percent of urban areas in favor of having a parliament while 21 percent did not and 31 percent could not decide on the issue.

"Indecision on this issue is prevalent among those from rural Mindanao, with 45 percent of them vacillating," San Andres said.

'Milenyo' death toll rises to 29

THE DEATH toll from tropical depression "Milenyo" rose to 29 yesterday after the body of a missing person was found and reports of two other typhoon-related casualties reached the Office of Civil Defense in Camp Aguinaldo.

According to the reports, the body of Julio Tuquero was recovered on Aug. 15 in La Castellana, Negros Occidental. He was last seen being swept away by a strong current.

The two other victims were identified as Joemar Francisco, who was found dead in Himamaylan City, and Michelle Inam, who drowned in Taytay, Rizal.

"Milenyo" had earlier flooded numerous parts of the country, caused landslides and forced thousands to evacuate. ***Martin P. Marfil***

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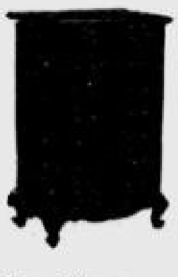

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High court clips powers of mayors to close nightclubs

By Michael Lim Ubac

IN AN unprecedented ruling promulgated yesterday, the Supreme Court effectively clipped the powers of the mayors to deal with nightclubs and entertainment joints, declaring that mayors cannot just close down these establishments "whimsically, arbitrarily or despotically."

The ruling, handed down by the SC's 3rd Division, said a mayor "has no power to order a police raid on these establishments in the guise of inspecting or investigating these commercial establishments."

A mayor could only do so after the owners had been notified of their violations and given the "opportunity to be heard" first, the SC said.

"The regulatory powers granted to municipal corporations must always be exercised in accordance with law, with utmost observance of the rights of the people to due process and equal protection of the law," said the SC which rebuked the former mayor of Manila, Alfredo Lim, for cracking down on Manila's red light district during his term.

The decision was penned by Associate Justice Antonio Carpio and concurred in by Associate Justices Reynato Puno and Artemio Panganiban. A third member of the division, Associate Justice Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez, was on leave.

The SC decision stemmed from a petition filed by Lim asking the high court to reverse an appellate court decision on March 25, 1993 that upheld a lower court's issuance of a temporary restraining order against the crackdown.

The TRO stopped Lim from "investigating, impeding or closing down the business operations" of the New Bangkok Club and the Exotic Garden Restaurant owned by Bistro Pigalle, Inc.

Lim ordered a raid on Bistro in 1992. On July 1, 1993, Lim directed policemen to permanently shut down the operations of Bistro.

In affirming the Court of Appeals decision, the high court junked Lim's petition for "lack of merit."

It said that Judge Wilfredo Reyes of the Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 36 granted only the prohibitory injunction to enjoin Lim from interfering, impeding or otherwise closing down Bistro's operations.

Lim had contended that the CA had erred in upholding the prohibitory injunction, relying primarily on his power as city mayor to grant and refuse municipal licenses and business permits as expressly provided for in the Local Government Code and the Revised Charter of Manila.

The SC ruled that while the mayors' authority to issue business licenses and permits was beyond question, the power to suspend or revoke these licenses and permits was premised on the violation of the conditions of such permits and licenses.

The SC said Lim violated City Ordinance No. 7716 which expressly prohibits police raids and inspections when he ordered the raids on the New Bangkok Club and the Exotic Garden Restaurant.

Under the ordinance, only local government officials such as the City Health Officer or his representative and the City Treasurer have the power to do so.

"Lim has no authority to close down Bistro's business or any business establishment in Manila without due process of law," said the SC.

Troops storm kidnap gang's lair; 3 rescued

TROOPS yesterday raided a kidnap gang's hideout in South Cotabato and rescued three captives, the provincial government said.

The three were among four people seized Wednesday by gunmen suspected to be members of the Pentagon gang. The victims were wealthy large-scale farmer and businessman Gaudioso Villasor, his wife Carmen, their nurse Jovelyn Canaan, and the family driver Ariel Abang.

Gaudioso had been freed at dawn yesterday with orders to raise a P30-million ransom for the three others.

Gov. Manuel Piñol told reporters that the kidnappers abandoned the remaining hostages when an infantry battalion raided the hideout, a house near Tantangan town, later in the day. Piñol said no ransom was paid.

The Villasor couple, both in their 60s, had been on their way to General Santos City for Carmen's regular dialysis treatment when they were kidnapped, along with their two employees.

Senior. Supt. Bartolome Baluyot, Central Mindanao police director, said the victims left M'lang town where they lived, at 5 a.m., and were driving through Datu Paglas town, Maguindanao, when they were flagged down by a group of men, who then commandeered their Mercedes Benz van.

The vehicle was later recovered in a shop in Barangay Taviran, Datu Odin Sinsuat town, also in Maguindanao, according to Maj. Juliety Ando of the Army's 6th Infantry Division.

M'lang Mayor Luigi Cuerpo said the abductors were led by Tahir Alonto.

One of Central Mindanao's most wanted men, Alonto is the main suspect in the 1999 kidnapping of the Cavalida brothers of Digos City, Davao del Sur. He escaped from General Santos City jail in November of that year.

The local anti-kidnapping task force earlier tagged Gani Saligan, Jimmy Talimbo and Kagui Bayan, of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), as suspects.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu denied the allegation, and said that the rebel group's field commanders were, in fact, helping track down the suspects. ***Aquiles Z. Zonio, Jeffrey M. Tupaz, Edwin O. Fernandez, and Charlie C. Señase of PDI Mindanao Bureau, with reports from AP and AFP***

Suicide bombing victim buried

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Adelina Cunanan, the Filipino overseas worker who was killed in a suicide bomb attack in Israel on Aug. 4, was buried in quiet rites yesterday.

Some 1,000 mourners escorted the hearse bearing Cunanan, 44, to the Good Shepherd Memorial Park here, some 15 kms north of her Minalin hometown.

Motorists gave way as the hearse carrying the white coffin, accompanied by a convoy of 50 jeepneys draped with streamers hailing her "heroism," wound its way through this city's major thoroughfares.

The media horde that had doggedly pursued the story about the tragic death of Cunanan and another OFW, Rebecca Ruga, for a week, yesterday left the Cunanan and Lagunilla clans to grieve in peace.

Her husband Henry and their children Neil and Gladys wept quietly. Her father collapsed and briefly lost consciousness as his daughter's coffin was lowered to the ground.

The Israeli Embassy sent a representative. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

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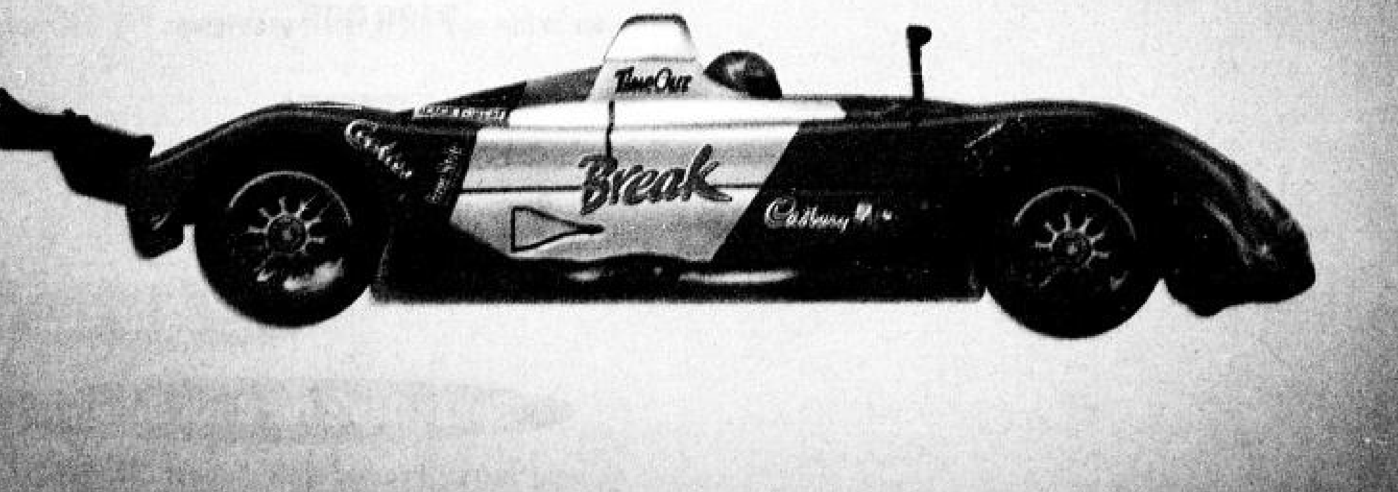

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RP sending 4 Navy ships to Sabah to fetch 800 Filipino deportees

By N. Bordadora

THE PHILIPPINES will send four vessels to fetch around 800 undocumented Filipinos set to be deported from Sabah by the Malaysian authorities, the Department of Foreign Affairs said yesterday.

DFA Assistant Secretary Victoriano Lecaros, the department spokesperson, said the assistance mission is being done to save the Filipinos from harsh penalties as the end of the amnesty program set by the Malaysian government for illegal aliens draws near.

The amnesty ends on Aug. 24.

Lecaros said that the 800 Filipinos are now ready to leave Sandakan in Sabah as soon as the two Navy logistics support vessels (LSVs)—BRP Dagupan City and BRP Bacolod—get entry and exit clearance from Kuala Lumpur. The two vessels are still in Zamboanga del Norte.

The vessels can transport up to 2,000 people. Lecaros said they are expecting more Filipinos to show up before the deadline ends.

Two other smaller ships from the Philippine Coast Guard—BRP Edsa II and BRP San Juan—are on standby to assist the two LSVs from the Philippine Navy.

East Timor leader to meet GMA today

THE PRIME minister of East Timor is scheduled to meet President Macapagal-Arroyo today to discuss a range of issues including Manila's possible intercession for the young nation's membership in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) and the Asean Regional Forum.

Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri and the Philippine President would also discuss possible defense training courses pursuant to the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), according to officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The defense exercise is in recognition of the country's contribution to the development of the East Timor Defense Force during the transition period in 2000. This will involve basic combat training, advanced individual training, command and leadership training and reconnaissance training.

The Philippine side is expected to raise the possibility of concurrently accrediting its embassy in Jakarta to have jurisdiction over Dili. The East Timorese earlier expressed reservations about allowing diplomatic missions in Jakarta to be concurrently accredited in Dili. *Norman Bordadora*

China alerts DFA about 'backdoor visit'

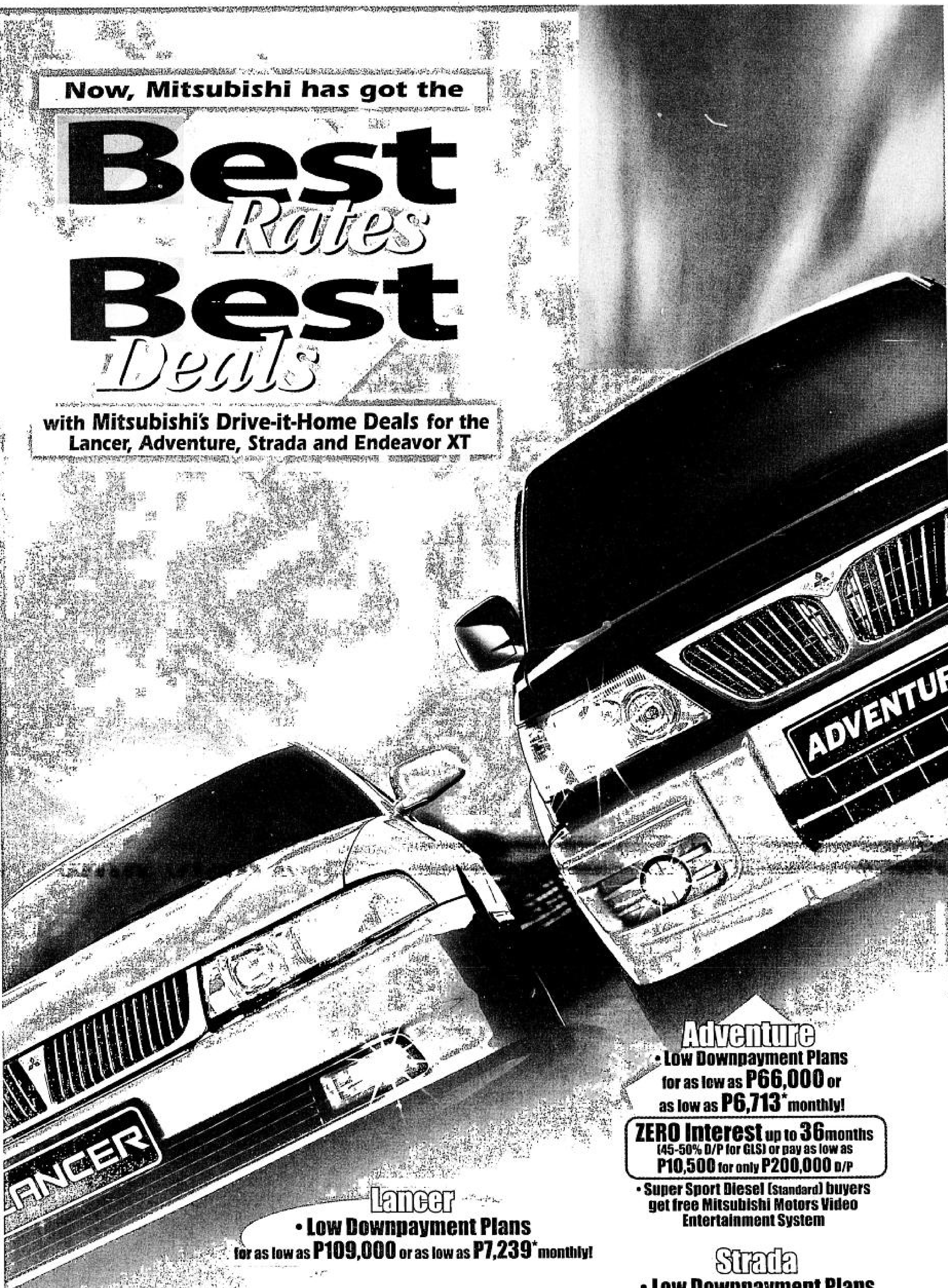
BEIJING has alerted Manila over a possible "backdoor visit" by Taiwanese Vice President Annette Lu, who has done a similar visit in Bali to the consternation of Chinese officials and to the surprise of Indonesian authorities.

Chinese Ambassador Wang Chungui yesterday went to the Department of Foreign Affairs to ask whether or not the Taiwanese vice president is scheduled to arrive soon at the Subic Bay Freeport.

DFA Undersecretary Lauro Baja, Jr., told the Chinese ambassador that the department had no information on the matter.

"Our position is we are not prepared to receive her in any capacity. We have no control over private visits but no way could the government welcome her," Baja told reporters.

Baja disclosed the Chinese ambassador lobbied against the visit of Lu. The undersecretary said that Wang was assured that the government does not intend to officially welcome her. *Norman Bordadora*



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GLX Gas M/T	645,000	79,000	25,639	18,211	12,644	322,500	26,875	17,917	13,438	9,685	7,728	6,713
Diesel M/T	670,000	84,000	26,633	18,017	13,134	335,000	27,917	18,611	13,958	10,126	8,080	7,019
GLS Gas	705,000	66,000	28,024	19,905	13,820	352,500	29,375	19,583	14,688	9,792	7,895	6,853
Diesel	720,000	69,000	28,620	20,329	14,114	360,000	30,000	20,000	15,000	10,000	8,107	7,037
GLS Sport Gas	698,000	121,600	27,740	19,707	13,683	349,000	30,029	20,611	16,481	11,706	9,340	8,124
Sport Diesel	713,000	119,600	28,342	20,131	13,977	356,500	30,265	20,772	16,815	11,801	9,416	8,186
Super Sport Gas M/T	750,000	115,000	29,813	21,176	14,702	375,000	31,250	21,191	16,951	12,047	9,612	8,356
Gas A/T	790,000	123,000	31,403	22,305	15,486	395,000	32,917	22,435	17,955	12,753	10,175	8,846
Super Sport Diesel M/T	770,000	114,000	30,608	21,740	15,094	385,000	32,083	21,389	17,219	12,230	9,758	8,482
SS Gas M/T-Limited Edition	760,000	122,000	30,210	21,458	14,898	380,000	31,667	21,607	17,448	12,393	9,888	8,598
SS Gas A/T-Limited Edition	800,000	130,000	31,800	22,587	15,682	400,000	33,333	23,051	18,442	13,099	10,451	9,088
SS Diesel-Limited Edition	765,000	128,000	30,409	21,599	14,996	382,500	31,875	22,268	17,811	12,651	10,094	8,778
LANCER												
GLX M/T	620,000	109,000	24,646	17,505	12,154	310,000	20,761	18,368	14,687	10,432	8,323	7,239
GLS M/T	695,000	124,000	27,627	19,623	13,024	347,500	30,160	20,700	16,560	11,765	9,379	8,158
A/T (INVECS II)	725,000	140,000	28,819	20,470	14,212	362,500	32,408	22,243	17,773	12,624	10,072	8,764
MX (INVECS II)	805,000	136,000	31,909	22,728	15,780	402,500	34,256	23,512	18,805	13,357	10,657	9,268
STRADA												
Standard Model	994,000	160,000	38,512	28,065	19,458	497,000	43,204	29,605	23,739	16,862	13,454	11,703
ENDEAVOR XT												
Standard Model	715,000	100,000	28,422	20,187	14,016	357,500	31,121	21,360	17,078	12,129	9,677	8,418
Special Edition	725,000	125,000	28,810	20,470	14,212	362,500	31,556	21,658	17,315	12,298	9,813	8,535

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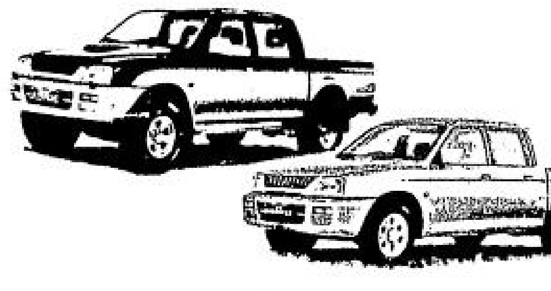

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Gloria hails courage of kidnap victim

From page A1

the lowest to the highest officials of the land."

The President later proceeded to a meeting with local officials at a restaurant in this city.

Tiu was kidnapped on Sept. 27, 2001 while driving her car in this city. She was rescued in Pasay City eight days later. The P10-million ransom her father had paid to her kidnappers was recovered. Eight Chinese nationals were subsequently arrested and charged.

Ms Macapagal told a press briefing following her meeting with Tiu that she admired the woman's "courage and sense of righteous indignation" where others would have feared for their lives.

She said Tiu's case, "the first and last . . . to take place in Region 1 (Ilocos region) under my administration," is an example of how law enforcers must respond to kidnapping.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez was with the President during the meeting. He later went to the hall of justice where the prosecution presented its case before Judge Antonio Carbonell of the Regional Trial Court Branch 37. Perez and Tiu went to the court in separate vehicles.

Ms Macapagal told reporters she was not going to the courtroom because she did not want it to "be misunderstood as interfering with the judicial process."

The panel of state prosecutors handling the Tiu case is led by Richard Fadullon, this year's judicial excellence awardee.

"The case is proceeding well, the witness is very intelligent, the lawyers are capable, both from the prosecution and defense," Perez said.

"I will even recommend, as president of the Association of Law Schools, that the transcript of the case be studied by (law) students."

Teresita Ang See of the Citizen's Action Against Crime said Tiu should be praised for her courage and should be a model for other kidnap victims.

Ang See had been assigned by the court to act as interpreter for the Fookien-speaking kidnap suspects.

During the hearing yesterday, Tiu confidently narrated to the court how she was abducted, transferred to several safehouses and rescued. She pointed to the seven accused as those who kidnapped her.

The accused are Shi Jian Hui, Lim Jian Feng, Xu You Kwang, Wu Chang, Shi Chun Qi and Zhang Xi Wang. All are detained at the La Union provincial jail.

The seventh suspect, Zhan Du, had earlier been allowed to post bail after the charge against him was downgraded. Zhan, who was present at the hearing, was charged as an accessory to the crime.

Another suspect, Henry Ong, left the country without being arraigned, much to the disappointment of the victim's family and Ms Macapagal.

"(These) are residual matters that we will take care of. The prosecutors responsible for the downgrading of the charge are now being investigated by the Department of Justice," Ms Macapagal said.

The President urged ordinary citizens to help the government in its drive against criminality by calling 117 if they witness a crime, or hear something, or have reason to believe that a crime is being committed or about to be committed.

She ordered Interior Secretary Jose Lina to come up with one-minute infomercials to encourage the public to make use of the hotline.

Callers, however, will have to be patient at times because telephone operators apparently can't cope with all calls all the time.

Broadcaster Rene Sta. Cruz of dzBB tested the system before lunch yesterday after the station aired Ms Macapagal's call for the people to use the 117 system.

Cruz dialed three times but got only a taped voice message. Another reporter tried the hotline after lunch and a friendly operator came on the line after the first ring. The operator explained that some calls are automatically placed on standby if operators are held up by pending calls. ***With reports from Carlito Pablo***

Davide: Report corrupt judges

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Chief Justice Hilario Davide urged the public to report any irregularities committed by judges and court personnel so these could be acted upon immediately.

"It is the civic duty of the public because they are stakeholders in the administration of justice," he told reporters here last Thursday.

Davide said the Supreme Court would not hesitate to discipline the judges "because we want them to observe utmost honesty and integrity."

"Cleansing of the judiciary is a continuing campaign and we have dismissed many judges already and disciplined others through fines and suspension," said Davide.

In a speech before a convention of the Philippine Judges Association, Davide said judges should work as agents of progress as he warned them against indiscriminately issuing temporary restraining orders that would hamper economic growth.

Davide said judges are mandated to exercise outmost caution, prudence and judiciousness in the issuance of TROs.

"TROs and writs of injunction were never meant to be a source of unreasonable delay in litigation nor a source of profit and business among magistrates of the law," he said.

Davide said that when issued indiscriminately, TROs and writs of injunction impede the smooth administration of justice and hamper political, social and economic development.

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GMA or Roco: Allies face tough choice

From page A1

rallying point of the "anti-Gloria faction" in the ruling Lakas and the coalition.

He claimed that the party stalwarts were "not for Gloria," and proceeded to name former President Fidel Ramos, Lakas chair emeritus; Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr., president; Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., Ms Macapagal's co-chair; and Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez, secretary general.

"She chairs Lakas but she's got no people there. This is FVR and Joe de V's party," the congressman said, noting that Ramos, Guingona and even Legarda had been issuing statements critical of the President's handling of certain issues.

"Right now, the Roco-Legarda ticket is shaping up and it will be supported by the heroes of Edsa," the lawmaker said.

Dark horse

Opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel predicted that the 2004 presidential election would be a multi-cornered race, with Roco as the potential dark horse.

Pimentel said the strong support for Roco from both political leaders and the public following his resignation from the Cabinet could spell trouble for the President.

He warned against a widening crack in the PPC and other political forces supportive of Ms Macapagal, and said: "I suppose the weaker (she) is perceived by political strategists, the more people will throw their hat into the ring, believing they can beat her."

Sen. Sergio Osmeña III acknowledged that Roco had become a force to reckon with in 2004, and that it would be easy for the former senator to draw politicians and supporters to his side.

"In any campaign, it's the popular person who will organize his own party," Osmeña said. "All traditional politicians will flock to the most popular candidate who will invite more resources to the party from supporters for the campaign."

But Deputy Speaker for the Visayas Raul Gonzalez dismissed the supposed threat posed by Roco to Ms Macapagal and the unity of the coalition.

"I don't see any shifting alliances," he said. "I don't see Roco as an alternative to the President."

Gonzalez said Roco did not have a following in Congress, much less in the PPC.

"It will be too much to expect a party to abandon the President (in favor of Roco)," he said.

He pointed out that the President enjoyed the equity of the incumbent—the unwritten rule that settles electoral contests among partymates.

Gonzalez said that without a public position, Roco could not expect to sustain his popularity in the run-up to the 2004 elections.

"He may be the darling of certain sectors of the media now, but once the dizzying phase of the nation's life overtakes him, he will fade away like an old soldier," Gonzalez said.

The deputy speaker chided Roco for being "oversensitive," and invoked the adage that when one was under attack, a clear conscience was one's best refuge.

Nevertheless, he said Roco decided well in sticking with the PPC.

He said that this appeared to be Roco's "opening for future job offers," and that Roco could be offered a slot in the administration's senatorial ticket in 2004.

Good fight

Abad said that while "the ideal situation is for the coalition to have only one candidate," the talk had shifted from the possible contender in the opposition to the possible contender "within the coalition."

The lawmaker said Ms Macapagal remained the candidate to beat but Roco could put up a good fight owing to his popularity, support from the youth and professionals, and Bicol's regional vote for its "favorite son."

Abad said that even if Roco ran outside of the PPC, he would still take significant votes from the administration—a clear benefit for the opposition.

However, Abad said it was still "too early to say" whether the coalition would break apart.

He said the Liberal Party, for instance, was not mulling over whom to support between its honorary chair and Roco, once dubbed the "honorary woman" of the Senate.

"We'd like to participate in efforts to reconcile them and have them work together again," he said.

Abad said reconciliation would not be far-fetched because the President and Roco had no profound ideological differences.

Laughing, he said the problem was probably a case of "leadership style against management style."

Abad said the two should also consider the "higher goal" of preserving the gains of People Power I and II and the accompanying historical mandate.

He urged the President to convene the PPC immediately "to determine where we are headed together," and said that the longer reconciliation was delayed, the more painful words would be heard from either side.

Unflattering situation

Pimentel said Roco's departure from the Cabinet had put Ms Macapagal in an "unflattering situation" similar to what occurred last month when Guingona resigned as foreign secretary because of policy differences with her.

The senator reminded the President that she was put in power through the collective effort of various political groups disgruntled with her predecessor.

"It is obvious that any group or individual separating or distancing themselves from the President, such as what Guingona and Roco (did), will obviously weaken the coalition supporting (her)," Pimentel said.

He said that while Roco's resignation was saddening, the opposition could not be faulted for attempting to win him to its side.

"In politics, it is said that the enemy of my enemy is my friend," Pimentel said. "And therefore, looking from a pragmatic point of view, this problem created by the Roco resignation could be a boon to the cause of the opposition in 2004."

Pimentel also pointed out that it was too early to say that Roco would remain in the PPC considering his potential for the presidency.

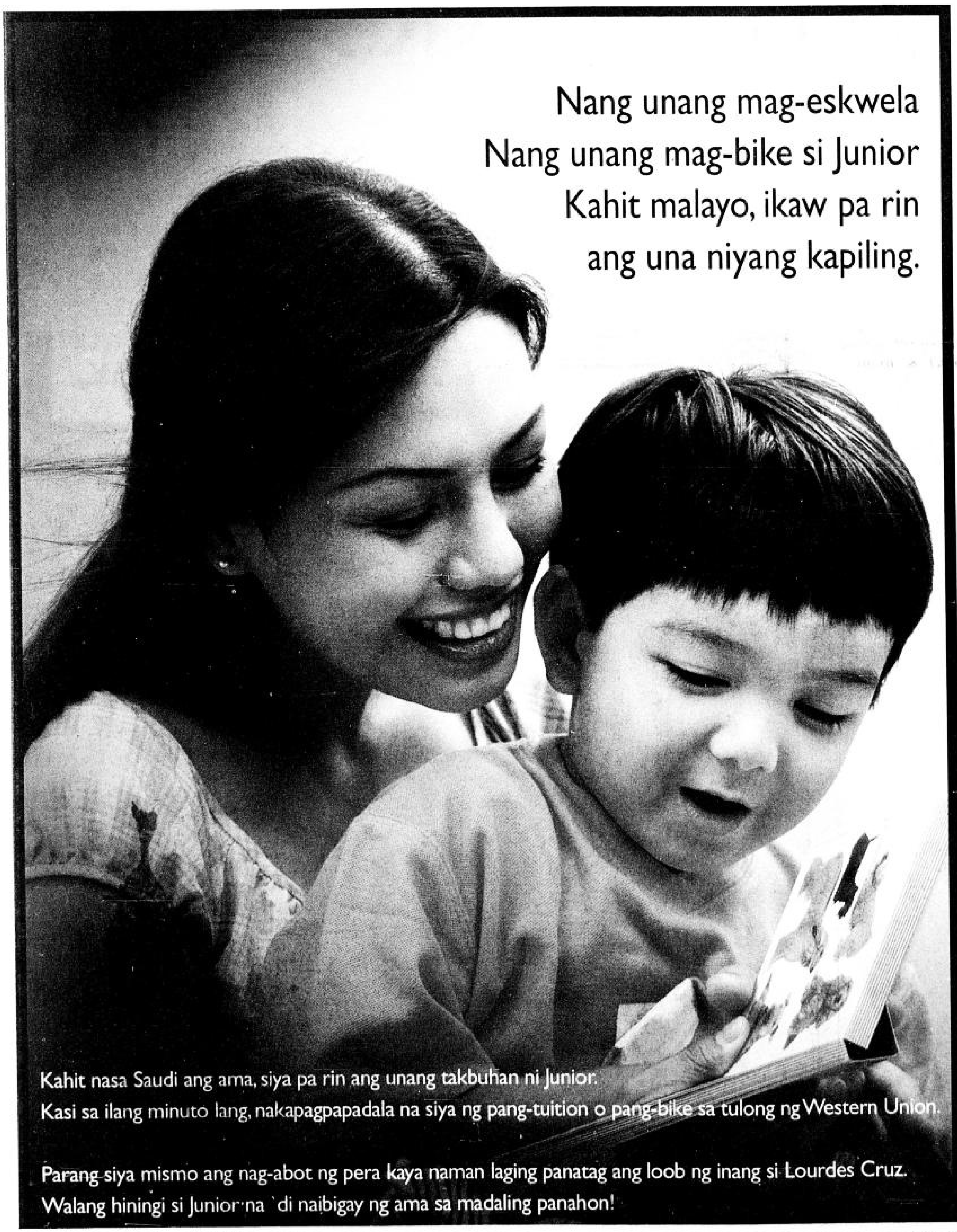
Earlier, Legarda said Roco could be a third force to reckon with in the presidential race considering his strong showing in recent surveys.

But she said Roco would not join the opposition despite its overtures.

Sen. Edgardo Angara said Roco was welcome to join his party, the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, because the opposition needed principled men.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said that in order to gain public support on the matter, the administration should either clear or prosecute Roco.

"The prevailing atmosphere is highly charged with politicking (in view) of the 2004 elections," he said.



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By quitting, Raul blew it, says Gloria

From page A1

1:10 p.m. yesterday. Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, Ms Macapagal's advisers Vicky Garchitorena and Marita Jimenez, and Roco's brother Camarines Sur Rep. Sulpicio Roco Jr. were present.

"The meeting was described by Secretary Romulo as very cordial," Bunye said at his regular briefing.

He said there was no word yet on Roco's successor at the Department of Education, and refused to comment on reports that the administration was considering opposition Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta for the post.

'SOP'

Two Cabinet members present at Bunye's briefing for another issue expressed support for the President's action on the graft complaint against Roco submitted by the DepEd Central Office Employees Union.

Interior Secretary Jose Lina described the endorsement as "ministerial" and "SOP (standard operating procedure)."

"That's all there was to it," Lina said.

Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez said he would have not done what Roco did if he were put in the same situation.

"In this job where there is a leader, it's difficult to bear a grudge against the leader," Alvarez said. "It's like bearing a grudge against your mother."

Roco quit as education secretary on Aug. 13 on a "point of honor," claiming that the President denied him courtesy when she referred the complaint against him to the PAGC.

Malacañang has maintained that the President made similar endorsements of complaints filed against Justice Secretary Hernando Perez and Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit.

Among the issues raised by the DepEd union against Roco was his endorsement of the tax-exemption request of the University of Santo Tomas Hospital (USTH) on P70 million worth of imported medical equipment, over which Education Undersecretary Jaime Jacob resigned last June 3.

What's in a name?

Jacob said Thursday that Roco erred in reversing his opposition to granting the USTH duty-free privileges because the tax exemption violated Department of Finance (DOF) Order No. 137-87.

He said that:

- Representatives of the University of Santo Tomas themselves had revealed to the DepEd legal affairs office that the USTH was a separate entity.
- The Securities and Exchange Commission had certified that there was no corporation or partnership registered with the name Santo Tomas University Hospital or University of Santo Tomas Hospital.
- The application was in the name of Santo Tomas University Hospital, an entity that also referred to itself as the University of Santo Tomas Hospital in the application.

Jacob said he had advised the UST representatives to apply for tax exemption in the name of University of Santo Tomas and Santo Tomas Hospital Inc., which he said were registered, in order to enjoy the tax exemption.

But they insisted on using the name of USTH as the owner of the medical equipment and the applicant for tax exemption, he said.

Investigation

The former education undersecretary for legal affairs said their investigation showed that the majority owner of USTH was Summit Ventures Marketing and Management Group Inc., and that UST had a mere 30-percent stake in the hospital.

"Under Section 6.2 of DOF Order No. 137-87, the DepEd is supposed to verify and certify, among others, that the applicant is a duly registered educational institution," he said. "Under the premises, my office, upon verification, simply could not issue such a certification." ***With a report from Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Gov't takes over Diwalwal gold mines

By D. Pazzibugan and G. Lacuarta

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered a "direct takeover" of Mt. Diwalwal's gold mining operations.

She issued the order through Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez and Interior Secretary Joey Lina, who were earlier called to Malacañang.

In a press briefing, Alvarez said, "The President is using state power to take over state property." He added that the takeover would last "one to two months."

During this time, he said, small-scale mining without using explosives could go on, because some 2,000 small miners depended on Mt. Diwalwal for their livelihood.

Big-scale mining would be "totally stopped," the DENR chief said, and regulated mining operations would resume in four to five months.

During the takeover period, the government meant to work out an equitable sharing between small miners and the big mining companies. The latter had apparently benefited the most from the gold-rich Mt. Diwalwal in Monkayo, Davao.

"Right now, the sharing is lopsided, at 60-40 in favor of the big companies," Alvarez pointed out. "Why not (reverse) that?"

Lina was ordered to secure what is now officially known as "Diwalwal Gold Rush Area," and to maintain peace and order in the expanded site totaling 8,829 hectares.

A 600-strong police-military security force was set to be deployed today to the illegal 729-hectare mining site at Mt. Diwata in Compostela Valley.

Another contingent would be sent to guard an additional 8,100 hectares that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources had set aside "for mining activities, mineral processing plants, and common tailings disposal system."

The expansion was carved out of the concession of Picop Resources Inc., whose logging permits had expired.

Government's move followed a spate of killings and protests since July 25, including the recent toxic smoke incident that killed a miner and downed 40 others. The decades-old operations had been plagued with dissent and violence due to rivalry and unsafe mining practices. ***With Ayan C. Mellejor of PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Wycoco insists case vs Acsa legal

By Philip C. Tubeza

IF the Department of Justice accepted the cases, then that makes the charges valid.

So declared National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco in the latest escalation of the case of Land Bank of the Philippines cashier Acsa Ramirez who insists that she was wrongfully charged with violations of the Anti-Money Laundering Law when it was she who had blown the whistle on the caper.

Ramirez's lawyer Virginia Suarez-Pinlac has claimed that the NBI had no personality to file the charges as, under the law, only the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) could do so.

But Wycoco said that since the DOJ had accepted the anti-money laundering cases the bureau had filed against LandBank manager Artemio San Juan Jr., Ramirez and her predecessor Ramon Joven, then that made them valid.

"By that mere fact (the DOJ's acceptance), the cases are satisfactory in form and substance. Otherwise, the DOJ would not have accepted them," he said.

Wycoco also denied that the NBI was persecuting Ramirez.

"If they are able to prove that they are innocent, then it's OK with us. We have no problem with that. Our duty is to file the charges against the three of them," Wycoco said.

San Juan, Ramirez and Joven were charged for allegedly failing to report bank transactions worth P4 million and above at the LandBank's Binangonan branch.

These transactions involved four fraudulent accounts that a syndicate had allegedly used to divert P203 million in tax money.

Wycoco also challenged Ramirez's claim that it was she who blew the whistle on the scam.

He insisted that she was only responsible for exposing the spurious P26 billion Bonsalagan account.

"That is another case. The four fraudulent accounts are very different from the P26 billion," said Wycoco.

Told that it was Ramirez who initiated the "letter of request for background investigation" into the fraudulent accounts, Wycoco said she would have to prove that during the preliminary investigation.

"She will have a chance to prove that at the DOJ," Wycoco said.

On Aug. 2, President Macapagal-Arroyo had gone to the NBI to receive a report on a bank scam. Ramirez, who had alerted her superiors to the suspicious accounts, thought she would be presented as the whistle-blower.

Instead, she was presented as a suspect and subsequently charged. Sen. Panfilo Lacson, the author of the money-laundering law, yesterday said Wycoco should be charged for usurping the authority of the AMLC.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, August 17, 2002
19th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Ezk 18:1-10, 13, 30 32
Gospel: Mt 19:13-15

Little children were brought to Jesus that he might lay his hands on them with a prayer. But the disciples scolded those who brought them. Jesus then said, "Let them be! Do not stop the children from coming to me, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to people such as these." So Jesus laid his hands on them and went his way.

Commentary

Popes, kings, presidents, all visiting dignitaries are welcomed and welcome children. It is the natural way to get in touch with the very essence of a society. Jesus goes further when he says that only becoming like a child will make us ready to enter his Kingdom. We realize that the child we all have inside makes us open, alive, trusting and loving persons, at the same time vulnerable and happy. Look at the world from your inner child's perspective and you will get close to God's vision, your optimism and creativity will flourish. God and people will love you more, making your heart fill up with joy. But avoid crying and disturbing when adults need silence and rest; think of others, otherwise you will be left abandoned in the "nursery school" forever.

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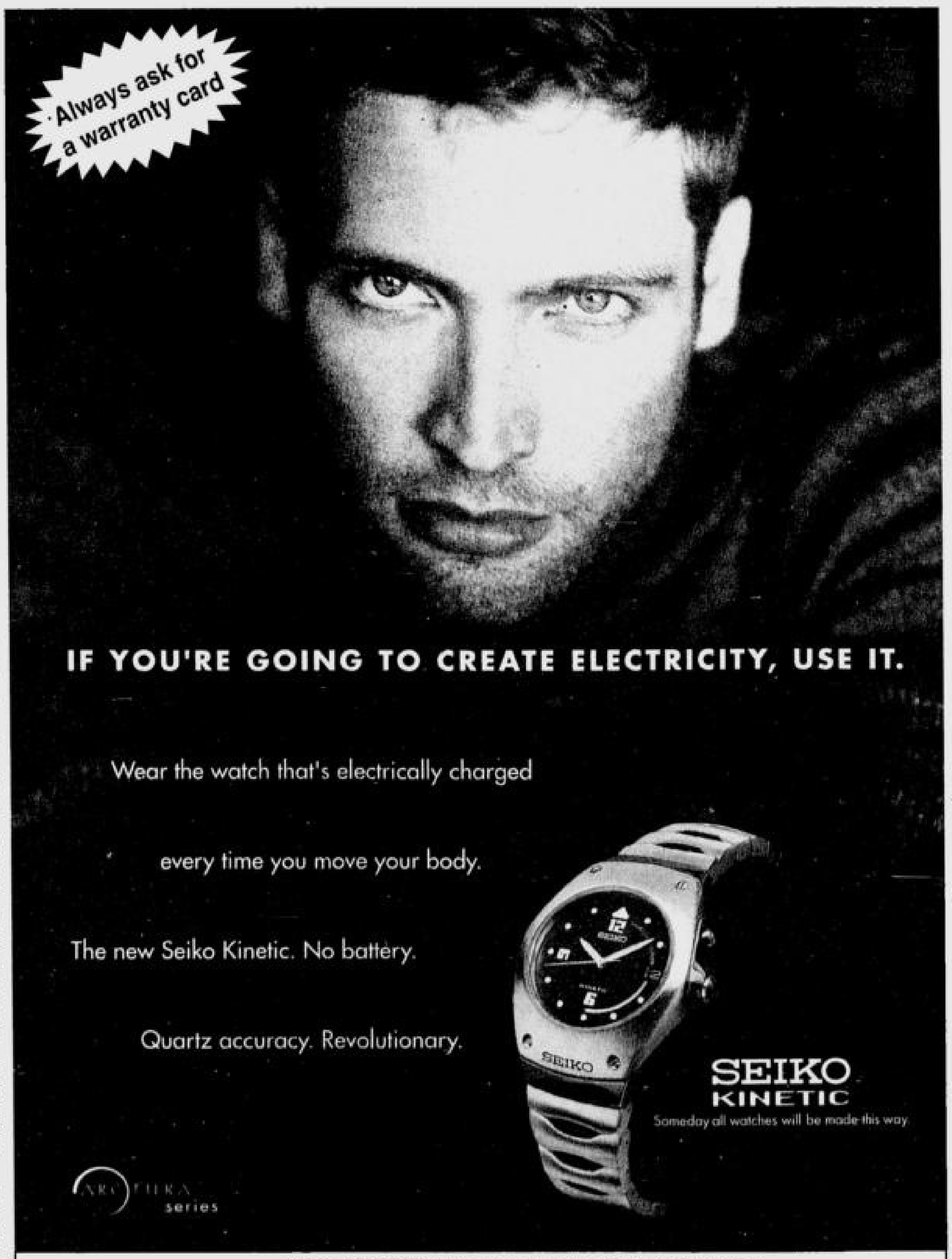

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INQUIRER

Vol. 17 No. 250
ISSN
0116-2642

OPINION

email: feedback inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net

The Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 /
528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

Publisher **Isagani Yambot**
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New McCarthyism

EDITORIAL

THE MACAPAGAL administration has pulled out all the stops in its campaign to crush the communist movement in this country. It has aligned the country behind the United States expansion, beyond its borders, of its global war on terrorism by tagging the Communist Party of the Philippines and its military arm as "foreign terrorist organizations."

Demonstrating a puppetry not seen since the end of the Cold War, the administration has dredged up old charges against Rep. Satur Ocampo, former spokesperson of the National Democratic Front in the peace talks with the government, and his wife Carolina Malay, for "illegal possession of firearms."

The complaint was filed in 1989, and the administration has apparently exhumed the skeleton in the closet just to find a weapon to put pressure on the leftist leaders to return to the negotiating table at the point of the gun. This squeeze on Ocampo went beyond the decision to respond to the US government's call on its allies, including the Philippines, to freeze the assets of the CPP and the NPA and to cripple their capacity to engage in terrorism.

Translated in the Philippine context, what US Secretary of State Colin Powell describes as terrorism has absolutely nothing in common with the terrorist attacks on the United States on Sept. 11 last year. Since the end of World War II, a social revolution has been waged by the communists to topple the government long before Osama bin Laden and the al-Qaida terrorist networks had even begun to organize themselves.

The squeeze on Ocampo came amid efforts by more sensible members of the government to revive the peace talks in a policy of attraction and negotiation rather than a reckless "all-out" war with the communist guerrillas. It scuttles the chances for a negotiated settlement to end the longest-running communist rebellion in Asia.

It is extremely doubtful whether the CPP or NPA has considerable assets that the government can identify, much less impound. Even if it were true that the breakaway factions of the NPA had engaged in illegal taxation on business establishments in exchange for not being molested, the communists have learned from a long history of underground activities to hide their assets. We can't therefore see how this freeze can send the guerrillas crawling on their knees to the negotiating table.

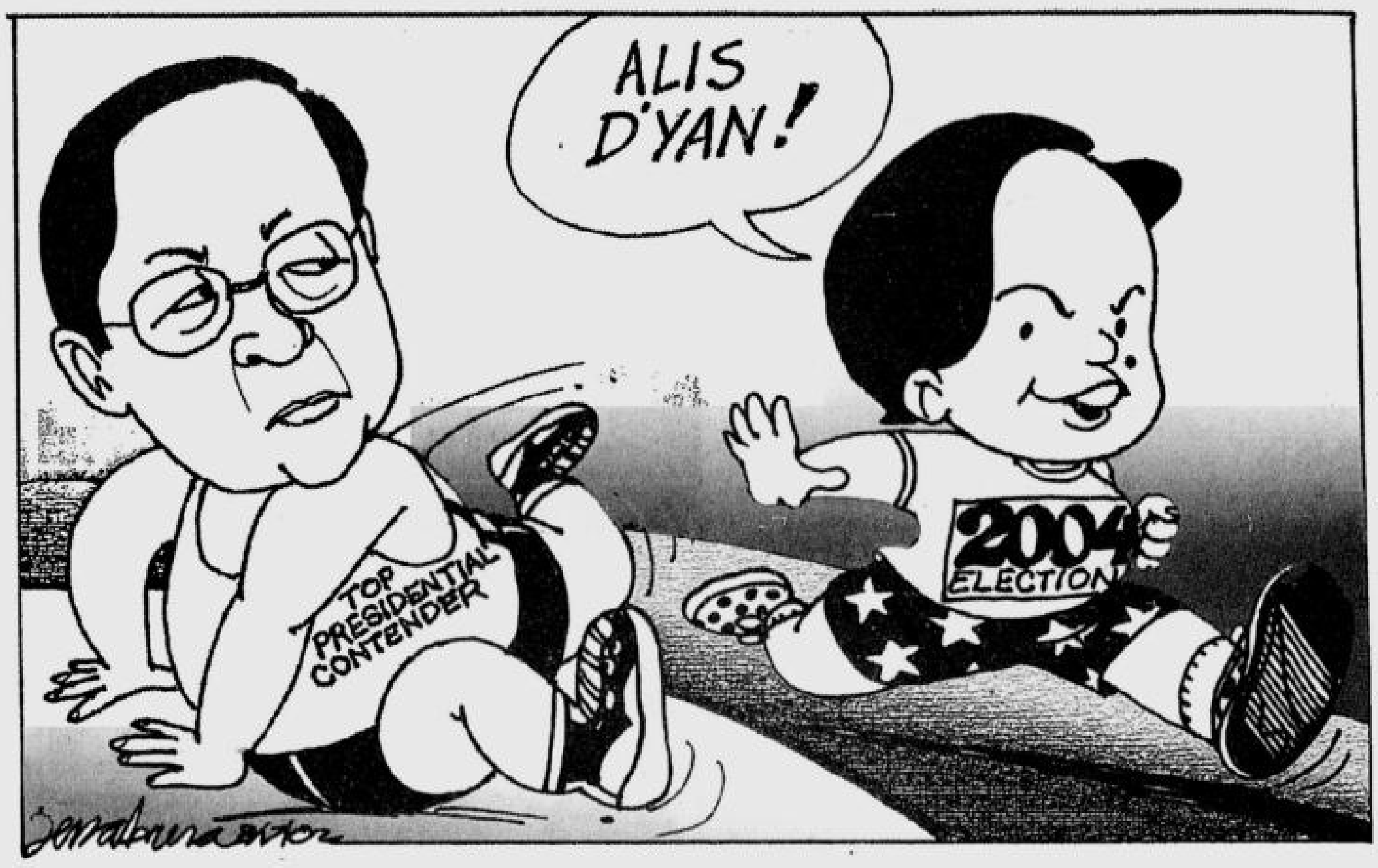
This new form of McCarthyism, employed by the administration to firm up its alliance with Washington in the global war on terrorism, is unlikely to cripple the communist movement. On the contrary, it sets back the trend of encouraging the Left to take the parliamentary path and abandon armed struggle as the approach toward effecting reforms in the grossly unequal distribution of wealth in society.

Ocampo belongs to the tendencies in the Left that have taken the path of parliamentary participation. Indeed, Ocampo's Bayan Muna and two other left-wing parties—Akbayan and Sanlakas—have made a beachhead in parliamentary politics by winning seats in Congress under the party-list system.

Ocampo is the wrong target of this new McCarthyism. Slugging him with the old charge of illegal possession of firearms will only cause the more die-hard Marxist leaders to dig in, since the government is apparently looking for a basis to exclude him from Congress—a move that could lead to throwing out other left-leaning parties from the legislature.

Rather than be stifled, the impulse for parliamentary participation by left-wing parties should be encouraged. The squeeze on Ocampo, however, is a throwback to the early days after independence when a handful of leftist representatives were expelled from Congress on fabricated charges of election cheating to ensure that the Roxas government could marshal a majority to pass a constitutional amendment giving US citizens and corporations equal rights with Filipinos in the exploitation and development of the national patrimony.

The Macapagal administration is reviving the weapon of exclusion to lock it into US foreign and security policy combating terrorism. In doing so, it is fanning the embers of social revolution.



Conviction by exhibition

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

I'M all for the campaign of President Macapagal-Arroyo against the serious and apparently unstoppable criminality in our country that is holding our helpless people hostage. The spate of crimes committed by syndicates of kidnappers, car thieves, drug pushers, smugglers, bank robbers and bus holdup men is fast converting us into the lawless turf of the Mafia during the Roaring Twenties in the United States. The communists and other seditious groups are also pitching in to establish a different kind of misrule dictated by a Filipino would-be Lenin in his sanctuary abroad.

On top of these organized crimes, there are the individual offenses committed by unaffiliated felons driven by their own lust and greed, and sometimes, unfortunately, by sheer want. Among these are the incestuous rapists who outnumber the other death convicts in the national penitentiary, the swindlers who count among them many government functionaries entrusted with the custody or management of public funds, the usual criminals found guilty of sundry forms of physical violence and the Jean Valjeans in our starving society unjustly imprisoned for the sin of hunger.

There should be even more inmates in our crowded prisons except for the privileged criminals who evade prosecution and punishment through their powerful connections or the immunities they purchase with money or extort with threats. One wonders, for example, about the recantations of the prosecution witnesses in the Kuratong-Baleleng case or what has been done about the killing of a nurse in the car of a suspect who reportedly belongs to a prominent family. Has she been effectively pardoned by the government prosecutors without trial and conviction?

We are no longer surprised to learn of policemen and soldiers participating in or even masterminding many serious crimes. At least one former head of the PNP has been criminally charged, although there is no news about its outcome after all these years. The joint report of three Senate committees on the Panfilo Lacson case has recommended the investigation and prosecution of several top lawmen implicated in the drug trafficking that they were supposed to combat. There is also talk that some generals are behind the Nida Blanca slay, which is the reason its solution has been delayed, if it will be revealed at all.

The armed forces have failed to suppress the menace of the Abu Sayyaf despite their boast, finally grown tiresome, that they had trapped the bandits. They have not done so to date. The outlaws have concededly decreased in number and force, but only because of the efforts of the American soldiers with their superior arms and tactics. The CPP-NPA, under the long-distance leadership of Jose Ma. Sison in the safety of his asylum in the Netherlands, has yet to be subdued.

There is no question that Ms Macapagal's well-publicized gimmickry impresses many citizens, who now hope for the arrest of the scoundrels who have been preying on their lives and property. It is also expected that the present roundup of suspected criminals will improve our image in the international community, which regards the Philippines as one of the "hot spots" in the world. Even our Mother America has warned its citizens against visiting this "land of the morning" as hazardous to tourists at all hours of the day and night.

Meantime, Ms Macapagal continues to exhibit on television manacled detainees who, in her view, are already convicted felons. They deserve to be publicly "humiliated"—that's her word. She is like a carnival barker hawking sideshow freaks, and in Malacañang itself at that. The captive suspects, clad in stigmatizing garments, could in fact be blameless. But not as our arbitrary president sees them. Her legal advisers should inform her that the persons she has "humiliated" are constitutionally presumed to be "innocent until the contrary is proved."

Some weeks ago, Ms Macapagal visited and commended two RTC judges for sentencing several kidnappers to death. The media cameras whirred and clicked to perpetuate the event. The cases were under pending automatic review by the Supreme Court but she couldn't care less that she was sending obvious signals to the justices. Coming from no less than the highest official in the land, those signals could exert strong, if not irresistible, pressure on the tribunal.

In the famous Cuevo-Barredo case, President Quezon fulminated against "seventeenth century judges interpreting twentieth century laws" for rejecting death benefits for a laborer who had drowned in the Pasig River while trying to retrieve a log for his employer. Justice Laurel publicly protested the presidential rebuke, and Quezon immediately apologized, saying he did not know that the case was on appeal. President Macapagal has yet to express regret over her own intrusive blunder in usurping judicial functions.

Madam President, under our Constitution, the end does not justify the means. Every person in this Republic, including suspected criminals, is protected by the Bill of Rights.

PAGC in the limelight

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

THE THREE-MEMBER Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC) is now experiencing its 15 minutes of fame (or notoriety, depending on one's point of view). As a result of the Roco resignation issue, the agency, which has been around under another name since 1994, has come under scrutiny. The very basis of its existence is now being doubted as much as it is defended, its chair reviled and praised.

One view is that the PAGC is not necessary, and duplicates some of the functions of the Office of the Ombudsman, which is tasked to root out corruption in government, among other things. President Macapagal-Arroyo is not having any of that. She says that the Office of the Ombudsman is an independent agency, while the PAGC is under her control.

While the issue of duplication is a no-brainer, and Ms Macapagal's reasoning is a non sequitur (just because one is a constitutional body and the other is under her office, it does not follow that there is no duplication of functions), the issue of necessity is something else again.

Why? The Office of the Ombudsman has had a very checkered reputation, to put it mildly. The competence and integrity of its leadership have been questioned time and again. And even if there were no doubts on these, the large number of government employees over whom the Ombudsman is supposed to be watching—over a million, excluding teachers and soldiers—militates against the speedy resolution of cases.

Thus it is arguable that there is need for such as a PAGC that specializes, as it were, in investigating administrative cases involving presidential appointees (those in the executive department, at least assistant regional director rank and/or Salary Grade 26—which, alas, make for a very politicized bureaucracy, since there are about 5,000 of them).

But why have a PAGC when presidential appointees, by definition, serve at the pleasure of the President? She can fire them at will, supposedly. The answer is that there still must be some systematic, non-arbitrary yet speedy way of weeding out the rotten apples. Which is where the PAGC comes in.

It is actually quite small, as government agencies go, with an annual budget of around P18 million, and a personnel complement of about 50. What is impressive about it is that it seems to have absolutely no pretensions: its three commissioners have no official cars assigned to them, and do not even have direct telephone lines in their office—they have to be reached through a trunk line (02-924-1311).

Its present policy, from what one gathers, is to investigate all complaints (even if anonymous, apparently) against any presidential appointee. These complaints are addressed directly to it, or to the Office of the President, which routinely sends them on.

(In the Roco case, for example, the extent of the President's involvement was a note in her handwriting consisting of two words: "PAGC Rama." With all due respect to Raul, it is difficult to imagine how that can be construed to mean that thereby the President "charged" Roco with graft; the normal construction would be that the President was referring a letter written to her to the proper party for consideration/action. Given the number of mail she receives, she probably reads no more than the first paragraph of most letters before parceling it out.)

Another (current) policy of the PAGC is to dispose of a complaint within 60 days of its receipt. But it has no power to mete out convictions or penalties. The PAGC's work is strictly recommendatory. What is more, whereas the general public can have access to the complaints that are filed with it, it has no access to its recommendations to the President, which are held in the strictest confidence. What the President does with those recommendations is her own lookout.

How has the PAGC performed so far? Per the government website, as of June 21 this year, it achieved a zero backlog in investigating and hearing cases filed with it, and resolved 192 cases, including 171 cases inherited from the previous leadership. Since then, they have resolved 28 other cases, with 26 cases still pending.

Some would say that this is a pretty good showing, with congratulations owing to PAGC Chair Dario Rama , and Commissioners Teresa Baltazar and Cesar Buenaflor. The bloodthirsty, however, would wonder why out of the 192 cases resolved as of June 21, 114 carried recommendations for the outright dismissal of charges, and only 10 had recommendations for dismissal of the appointee, 1 for suspension, and 1 for reprimand with warning. By the way, 54 of the cases were terminated either because the official involved was not a presidential appointee (lack of jurisdiction?), or pending more information from relevant government agencies like the COA.

Dario and Tess I know quite well, and I can speak only for them. Tess Baltazar has worked tirelessly as a member of civil society, persevering in her commitment to good governance. Dario Rama used to be a Comelec commissioner, serving with not a breath of corruption attached to his name, and with an almost unique record of leaving the Comelec with no backlog of cases. Cesar Buenaflor, the third commissioner, was with the civil service for 20 years, and from all accounts, was pretty well respected.

Their actions seem to indicate, one submits, that the PAGC does not go on witch hunts. Rather, it tends to show sobriety and responsibility in the discharge of its duties.

Which is surely a step in the right direction.

Look at the View!

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

TWO weeks ago, former UP president and now Kalayaan College president Dr. Jose Abueva e-mailed to me this commencement address recently delivered at the Villanova University in Pennsylvania by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Anna Quindlen. I thought it would provide you readers a much-welcome respite from all the problems facing our nation, as it did me. Quindlen wrote the piece especially for young people graduating from the university and preparing to assume their place in the world, but the verities of life she spoke about applies also to those already in the middle of the work-world, as well as those moving on to graduate from life. Enjoy her piece:

"It's a great honor for me to be the third member of my family to receive an honorary doctorate from this great university. It's an honor to follow my great-uncle Jim, who was a gifted physician, and my Uncle Jack, who is a remarkable businessman. Both of them could have told you something important about their professions, about medicine or commerce.

"I have no specialized field of interest or expertise, which puts me at a disadvantage, talking to you today. I'm a novelist. My work is human nature. Real life is all I know. Don't ever confuse the two, your life and your work. The second is only a part of the first. Don't ever forget what a friend once wrote Sen. Paul Tsongas when the senator decided not to run for reelection because he'd been diagnosed with cancer: 'No man ever said on his deathbed, I wish I had spent more time in the office.'

"Don't ever forget the words my father sent me on a postcard last year: 'If you win the rat race, you're still a rat.' Or what John Lennon wrote before he was gunned down in the driveway of the Dakota: 'Life is what happens while you are busy making other plans.'

"You walk out of here this afternoon with only one thing that no one else has. There will be hundreds of people out there with your same degree: there will be thousands of people doing what you want to do for a living.

"But you will be the only person alive who has sole custody of your life. Your particular life. Your entire life. Not just your life at a desk, or your life on a bus, or in a car, or at the computer. Not just the life of your mind, but the life of your heart. Not just your bank account, but your soul.

"People don't talk about the soul very much anymore. It's so much easier to write a resumé than to craft a spirit. But a resumé is a cold comfort on a winter night, or when you're sad, or broke, or lonely, or when you've gotten back the test results and they're not so good.

"Here is my resumé: I am a good mother to three children. I have tried never to let my profession stand in the way of being a good parent. I no longer consider myself the center of the universe. I show up. I listen, I try to laugh.

"I am a good friend to my husband. I have tried to make marriage vows mean what they say. I show up. I listen. I try to laugh.

"I am a good friend to my friends, and they to me. Without them, there would be nothing to say to you today, because I would be a cardboard cutout. But I call them on the phone, and I meet them for lunch. I show up. I listen. I try to laugh.

"I would be rotten, or at best mediocre at my job, if those things were not true. You cannot be really first-rate at your work if your work is all you are. So here is what I wanted to tell you today:

'Get a life.'

"A real life, not a manic pursuit of the next promotion, the bigger paycheck, the larger house. Do you think you'd care so very much about those things if you blew an aneurysm one afternoon, or found a lump in your breast?

"Get a life in which you notice the smell of salt water pushing itself on a breeze over Seaside Heights, a life in which you stop and watch how a red-tailed hawk circles over the water gap or the way a baby scowls with concentration when she tries to pick up a Cheerio with her thumb and first finger.

"Get a life in which you are not alone. Find people you love, and who love you. And remember that love is not leisure, it is work. Each time you look at your diploma, remember that you are still a student, still learning how to best treasure your connection to others.

"Pick up the phone. Send an e-mail. Write a letter. Kiss your Mom. Hug your Dad. Get a life in which you are generous. Look around at the azaleas in the suburban neighborhood where you grew up: look at a full moon hanging silver in a black, black sky on a cold night.

"And realize that life is the best thing ever. And that you have no business taking it for granted.

"Care so deeply about its goodness that you want to spread it round. Once in a while take money you would have spent on beers and give it to charity. Work in a soup kitchen. Be a big brother or sister.

"All of you want to do well. But if you do not do good, too, then doing well will never be enough.

"It is so easy to waste our lives: our days, our hours, our minutes. It is so easy to take for granted the color of the azaleas, the sheen of the limestone on Fifth Avenue, the color of our kid's eyes, the way the melody in a symphony rises and falls and disappears and rises again.

"It is so easy to exist instead of live.

"I learned to live many years ago. Something really, really bad happened to me, something that changed my life in ways that, if I had my druthers, it would never have been changed at all. And what I learned from it is what today seems to be the hardest lesson of all. I learned to love the journey, not the destination. I learned that it is not a dress rehearsal, and that today is the only guarantee you get. I learned to look at all the good in the world and to try to give some of it back because I believed in it completely and utterly."

(To be continued)

An OFW's urgent appeal

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

A LETTER has been making the rounds of e-mail networks the past month or so, especially the migrant worker networks. It concerns the plight of one Albert Arriola, a migrant worker who had undergone a kidney transplant in Kuwait, and is now caught in the bind between Kuwaiti health policy and the unresponsiveness of his own government.

Let me quote from Arriola's letter of appeal, as he can best explain his situation:

"I'm Albert Arriola, kidney transplant patient in Kuwait. After the operation, I was put on (an) immunosuppresive regimen which included Cylosporin, Neoral. Unfortunately these two medicines have adverse effects on my blood pressure and creatinine level. Every time I took these two anti-rejection medicines my blood pressure went up and my creatinine level, too. Therefore, it was discontinued and (my doctors) introduced two new medicines, namely, Cellcept and Rapamune (Stimorol).

"Now, here's my predicament. In Kuwait Cellcept is being given free to Kuwaitis only. All expatriates must buy it on their own at a staggering cost of KD185 (US$620) per month. The second (drug) was given free for the last six months and just recently (July), the Ministry of Health in Kuwait issued a circular that Rapamune is to be given only to Kuwaitis.

"But the big problem for us (all expatriates) is that (Rapamune) is not yet available in the Kuwait market, even in the Middle East (only available in hospitals in Middle East countries). According to my doctor (nephrologist), this medicine was just introduced in hospitals only and not yet distributed for local consumption.

"My question is, where can I buy this medicine? Can anybody help me in this case? I've got one and a half bottle left which will last for two weeks only. After that, only God knows!"

* * *

WINDA Lagumbay Petilla, who forwarded Arriola's letter to Ambassador to Kuwait Sukarno Tanggol, Philippine government officials and the Philippine media, says she made some quick research and found that "there are no marketing offices of either makers of Cellcept [Hoffman La Roche] or Rapamune [Wyatt Ayerst] in Kuwait."

In her note to Ambassador Tanggol, however, Winda says "the considerable reach and efficiency of your office should be able to locate and arrange for sources of the two drug companies to get these precious medications to Mr. Arriola. Please help. A life depends on it!"

After three attempts to inform the ambassador about Arriola's problem, however, neither Winda nor Arriola has so far received a response from his office.

"I mistakenly thought that his plight would be one of the more important occurrences that the ambassador would (look into), if not personally, (then at least) delegate to his trusted staff to look after since, in theory, the well-being of Filipino nationals in his jurisdiction is part and parcel of the embassy's duties," Winda wrote in a letter to Malacañang.

The migrant worker network also e-mailed Arriola's plea for help to Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit and to other officials of the DOH. Only Remedios V.S. Paulino, director of the Bureau of International Health Cooperation, acknowledged receipt of the appeal and even forwarded it to the pertinent offices. Still, no response from the department so far.

They had better luck with Malacañang, with the correspondence office at least acknowledging receipt of the letter.

But will Arriola receive help in time? That seems doubtful as all Malacañang did, according to its letter, was to refer the appeal to Secretary Dayrit "for his attention and appropriate action."

"Rest assured that the President will continue championing the cause of the Great Filipino Worker," the Palace correspondence office said.

* * *

AND now here's a bit of good news. I was about to send this column (in a different form) to the INQUIRER, when I spotted this update in my mailbox.

Arriola writes that Rolly Amaranto of OFWNet/Holdings-Jeddah will be sending him via DHL "two boxes of Cellcept (500 mg) for free and Prograf too (replacement for Rapamune) which I have to consult my doctor whether I can take it or not."

Arriola also clarifies that Ambassador Tanggol was recalled to Manila last June and that "if he is here, the good ambassador would have acted immediately. In fact, when I was confined at Mubarak Al Kabeer Hospital and was diagnosed with chronic renal failure, he advised me to accept the offer of the doctors to have my transplant operation here in Kuwait. After my operation at the Hamad Al Essa Kidney and Organ Transplant Centre, he was the first person to visit me in the hospital. The Filipino community in Kuwait really regret his being recalled back to the Philippines. He is the best ambassador we've ever had here in Kuwait…Till now, we don't have an Ambassador here. (The embassy) is being run by Consul General Alimatar Garangan."

Arriola assures us that he at least has enough stock to last for another 20 days, and thanks all those in the migrant workers network who responded to his plight.

* * *

STILL, I think Arriola's plight is a marvelous opportunity for the President and her officials to demonstrate their concern for our overseas workers. Arriola, after all, is not seeking charity, though the Filipino community in Jeddah sent him an interim supply of drugs for free. All he is requesting is assistance to find a regular and steady supply of medicine he needs for survival.

Thanks to e-mail and the network of Filipino overseas workers, one man has just been given a new lease on life.

Paean to roosters

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

(No self-respecting author of a 19th century travel book who passed by the Philippines would fail to mention [with amazement apparently] the relationship between Filipinos and their fighting cocks and their fondness for the sport.)

IN THE PHILIPPINES it can be said that the passion for cockfights is a true delirium and while in other countries the talons are sharpened, in the Philippines they are armed with knives. An infinity of roosters die every day but that doesn't appear to diminish their number. It would be difficult to find a town that didn't have more roosters than inhabitants. In the great bridge of Manila (there being only one span there was no competition so it was often referred to as "great," however, it was certainly pretty to judge from photos) between 4 and 5 in the morning, miles of penetrating trumpets could be heard from all over, at all distances and in all directions resembling a strand of signals that passed from mouth to mouth from the town of Bangui in Ilocos Norte to that of Matnog in the south of Albay.

There were roosters in every house, in every corner, at the foot of every tree, the length of the wharfs, in the beaches and in the prow of any cargo ship. As if these weren't enough, engravings and drawings in carbon were found on walls.

It is considered a lack of respect to touch a fighting cock without the express permission of the owner. The rooster is an object of much care and endearment; he eats, sings and sleeps in the arms of his master. He is always in his thoughts and is even lauded in affectionate verses. When he triumphs in fights repeatedly he is subjected to a meticulous examination with the aim of discovering exterior signs to explain his prowess: the scales of his feet are counted, his figure and distribution are observed, the tendency and inclination of the circles in his spur and if these resemble each other, the form of his talons and nails, the number and color of the feathers in his wings—11 being the favorite.

White eyes are preferred to brown and short crests are in demand. A cock is named in relation to the color of his feathers. The white is called *puti*; the red *pula*; *talisain* —white with black edges; a red body, black tail and wings *bulic* or *taguinguin*, totally black, *casilien* or *maitin*; black and white with black legs *tagaguin* and many other terms pertaining to the sport if you can call it that. (Black and white *binabai*, ash gray—*abuen*). The wild rooster is called *labuyo*.

Many and well-written articles, in jest and seriously, have been written about the Filipino roosters and the fights. Padre Buseta (as in Buseta y Bravo) states that the native has an inveterate passion for the game that rates No.1 in his diversions. The rooster is the principal object of his care, his frequent companion. He brings him to the church door where he leaves him tied to a bamboo pole stuck in the ground until the Mass is over. For no amount of money will he get rid of his favorite rooster and many possess half a dozen of these priceless (to them anyway) treasures to whose service they are exclusively dedicated.

For these fights each town has its gallery that produces considerable income for the government. These are large buildings constructed from trunks of palms, nipa and bamboo and consist of a large salon lighted from various windows in the ceiling. In the center is a stage some 5 feet in elevation surrounded by tiers of bamboo where the spectators sit and pay according to the proximity and convenience of the seats.

The native enters with his rooster under his arm, caresses him and sets him down. He picks him up again, caresses him again, speaks to him, blows smoke from his cigar on his face, stretches him and finally tells him to fight with bravura. The rooster then generally sings with pride and faces his rival. Knives or razors are attached to the natural spur and after allowing them to stare at each other for some time, the signal is given to begin the combat. Extraordinary agitation is noted in the gathering until a sheriff announces that the betting is ended. That announcement is followed by a universal silence. The owners of the roosters step back and the combatants face each other with their plumes bristling. They throw themselves at each other, continuing the battle until one of them falls mortally wounded. The victor jumps on top of his dead enemy and sings his song of triumph. Sometimes the wounded one rises and continues the attack and if he prevails as it sometimes happens, the former victor loses and is condemned to an ignominious death, deplumed and hanged from a hook outside the gallery.

The wounds of the victor are washed with an infusion of tobacco with coconut wine. But if he is wounded so that he can no longer fight he is tended to affectionately by his owner having medicine men and houses dedicated to curing his wounds.

It should be pointed out that the *pintakasi* in the Philippines is a government monopoly. Both the organization of the galleries and the rules and prescription of the game are determined by a regimen that the *tahuris*, the name given to the most assiduous and hardened devotees to these bloody sport, adhere to. The State exploits its development, conceding the opening of galleries to the highest bidder. Perhaps one of the strongest incentives of this passion is in its very restriction.

Change: Where and how do we begin?

YOUNG BLOOD

Herdy L. Yumul

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

PETER writes on the Internet, "I sure hope he dies soon enough so he is relieved of all his burdens and that I am relieved of calling him a fellow Filipino."

No, he was not referring to some bandit, cult leader or past president. That wishful thinking was for me.

Peter's reaction mirrors the kind of comments I got when I wrote "Who wants to be a Filipino?" two years ago. (PDI, 4/27/02) In the essay I asked, "If you were reincarnated and given the choice, would you want to be a Filipino again?" I said no. I would rather be a Frenchman in my next life, what with our tradition of mediocrity, identity crisis, inhumane level of poverty and never-ending episodes of turbulence.

Reactions poured in from Filipinos here and in many parts of the world. To many, I am an ingrate, a prodigal Filipino, an insecure young man. Some reactions were sympathetic, but most were agitated and some beyond reason.

With this experience I realized that we Filipinos are extremely sentimental about our nationality but our love of country does not go beyond the simple fact of acknowledging that we were born in this part of the world. Ours is a blind nationalism, definitely not an enlightened one. For what is in the Filipino that is superior compared to other peoples of the world? What is there to hold our heads up high for? What do we do to make our nation proud?

I have to say that while I did wish to be reborn in a better nation, I also promised to do everything I can, at least in this lifetime, to be the best Filipino that I can become so that at the end of the day, they can call me an ingrate but not one who has not done his part. Thus, in the past two years. I have tried to look closely into the Filipino situation, with a strong desire to help bring about change and reform.

This semester, as I start my graduate studies in sociology at the state university, I have set one major goal: to identify where and how we could effect change in our national life so that the next generations of young Filipinos will, at the very least, won't have to write essays like this one. I certainly do not entertain illusions of getting close to being the next Max Weber, Karl Marx or Randy David, but I am determined to go on despite my pragmatic side's whispering that I might be shooting for the stars.

For where should change begin? Should it begin with the government? With a President whose authority to govern seems to stem solely from her having a pretty mole?

With the military and police who have become the very elements they should fight against? With the judiciary that is inutile and corrupt? With our legislators? (No explanation needed.) Or with Comelec officials who arrogantly show, not without minor injury to our already benighted land, critical symptoms of second childhood?

Or maybe change must begin with the church? With Jaime Cardinal Sin who says it's okay to accept money from the devil? With priests who rape altar boys? With Erano Manalo who compels his followers to support politicians like Erap, lest they be cast in hell? Or with Mike Velarde and his following of five million parrots? (Emen? Emen!)

One is tempted to say that our hope rests with the youth. But where are the youth? They are in the malls salivating over the latest models of cellular phones, in computer shops playing the most violent network games. The more unfortunate ones are in the streets, numb to the realities of drugs, crime and sexual exploitation.

They say education is the key but I have some doubts. The University of the Philippines and Ateneo dominate our national academic life and so we hold them largely responsible for all the chaos in our country today. I always wanted to have a Bedan in Malacañang but if it's going to be Fernando Poe Jr., forget it. And lest La Sallians smile, let me remind them about former Education Secretary Andrew Gonzalez's' obsession with luxury cars at a time when a public school teacher could hardly afford to buy a decent pair of shoes.

Yet the greatest failure of our educational system is that we train young people to be good doctors, lawyers, IT professionals or whatever, but in the process fail to make them good and responsible citizens.

So where do we start? I have engaged in long and exhaustive discussion and debate with young writers, journalists, academicians, taxi drivers, friends and just about anybody who has anything to say on this matter. But no one could tell me what to do. We always end up saying, always with ambiguity, that change should start in each one of us in our own ways no matter how small. It makes sense. But how do we unify individual efforts and make them material at a national level?

I am still in search of answers to my questions. But others obviously are not as patient; thousands of them jump off from the sinking ship by the day. The next day after he graduated from medical school, my friend Dindo went to the Embassy of the United Stales. He got a 10-year, multiple entry visa. And there was a sparkle in his eyes. Meanwhile, my relatives scattered in many parts of the world dread the idea of coming back, except for a vacation.

My heart is with the overseas Filipino workers but I refuse to call them "modern-day heroes." For if they beef up our economy, thanks to their dollar remittances, it's only incidental that they do. No one goes abroad for the national economy. One leaves the country for personal needs, interests, whims and caprices. And no matter how noble their intentions, OFWs are not heroes, definitely not the catalysts of change.

But many of those who stay, either by choice or by circumstance, are not any better. They are obsessed with whitening soaps and concoctions and exhaust all means to camouflage everything that marks them as Filipinos. They live in the realm of soap operas and game shows. What better way to take relief from this dog-eat-dog world?

A few days ago, I fell victim to a holdup man in Cubao. Oh, how bad I felt when the culprit pointed a knife at my side and took my jewelry and some cash. But there was something more that hurt me.

I realized that the most painful part in being Filipino is when you have to assume that everyone, be it in the streets, in church, or in the state halls, will do you harm. It breaks my heart that one has to look at his brother Filipinos always with eyes of cynicism and distrust. It's difficult but it's the only way to survive. With no one trusting no one, the idea of a concerted effort to bring about change lurks in the dark.

Everyone cries for change. But where and how do we begin?

I can stay here and spend my whole life just pondering on and trying to resolve these questions. Or, like Peter, I can move to another land, pledge my allegiance to another flag and, to mitigate my guilt feelings, proclaim to the whole world, via the Internet, how big, noble and unadulterated my love is for the Philippines.

For whatever reasons we consider ourselves Bayang Maharlika, I am clueless.

But in the spirit of noblesse oblige, I cross my fingers and stay.

Herdy L. Yumul, 23, is a Philosophy and Human Resource Development graduate of San Beda. After two years of work with a development organization for women and children, he now is doing graduate studies in sociology at the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

School needs help against criminality

THE ALARMING incidents of crime around our school have gone unnoticed. St. Paul College of Manila, through the years, have been plagued by the presence of rugby boys, who outrightly harass our students and school personnel. We have made an appeal to various government agencies. These boys were rounded up on several occasions, but after a day or two, they were released and were back in the streets, bolder and more defiant.

After more appeals to the Philippine National Police and the barangay officials, men in uniform were deployed in the school last July. In spite of their presence, crimes are still on the rise. The latest took place in the early morning of Aug. 5.

One of our students was attacked by three young men and hit on the neck by one of them, two blocks away from the school. Her bag, containing money and some valuables, was snatched. The girl was in a state of shock after the incident, which necessitated immediate medical attention in a nearby hospital.

One of her attackers was caught by our security guards and was immediately turned over to the police. The suspect was detained while the police waited for the filing of a formal complaint.

The girl's relatives, after being notified, went to the hospital and to the police station to file a complaint. They were advised, though, to bring along the girl so she could execute her affidavit because the suspect could not be detained for more than 18 hours. However, the girl was still in a state of shock, and her mother was not in favor of the action for fear of reprisal from the other two suspects who were on the loose. In short, the suspect was released; the victim did not get justice!

We have some questions for the authorities: When a rugby boy was allegedly hit by one of our guards, the Department of Social Welfare and Development came to his rescue. Where was the DSWD when this girl was attacked? Where were the policemen and the barangay tanods when the incident happened? Will such crime continue to flourish in our midst even in the presence of men and women in uniform? Can't our students be assured of safety when they come to school? Pedro Gil Street in Malate has become a crime-infested area.

While we commend the efforts of President Macapagal-Arroyo to curb criminality in our country, we appeal to her, to Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, to PNP NCR Regional Commander Velasco, to Interior Secretary Jose Lina, to Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman and other authorities concerned, to look at the little corners where crimes and wrongdoings thrive.

—THE STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF, SISTERS, ADMINISTRATORS, PARENTS AND ALUMNAE,
St. Paul College, Manila

Find a moral justification for higher SSS premiums

SOCIAL Security System president Corazon de la Paz has proposed an increase of premium rates to be collected from SSS members. She is putting forward actuarial justifications for this move and she points to the fact that SSS premiums in the Philippines are the lowest in the region, if not in the world.

She has not stated whether benefits are also the least. The public perception is that the SSS is in dire straits because it is mismanaged and investments in recent years have been attended by graft and incompetence.

The Ombudsman has imposed administrative sanctions upon several of the highest officials of the SSS for gross error in judgment. Several of these officials are no longer in service and no material punishment can be administered against them. Three officials have been suspended for six months. When these officials return to service, what will De la Paz do with them? Will they assume functions where they have sown havoc on the SSS finances in the past? Will they be back in positions of authority where they can terrorize subordinates who may have exposed them? These officials receive emoluments they have appropriated for themselves, rivaling their counterparts in the private sector. Given the blunders, if not corruption they have been suspended for, in the private sector they would have been walking the streets a long time ago.

What protection have the workers who are compelled by law to be SSS members from the incompetence of SSS officials? Will the SSS come back again in a decade demanding increased premiums to cover the heist of another generation of corrupt officials? Will the Filipino workers be helpless hostages to the SSS' caprice? Until De la Paz is able to reduce to reasonable levels the remuneration of its officials, it has no right to squeeze from the meager income of the workers more money to justify its existence.

If De la Paz cannot find a moral solution out of the present SSS dilemma, outstanding as her credentials may be, she should just resign while her self-respect is still intact and leave the job to someone who may have some novel solution. As for the returning incompetents, they ought to be hanged by their thumbs with a flame lit under the soles of their feet; but it might suffice for a plaque with inscriptions of their blunders (crimes in the opinions of many) to be posted at the portals of every SSS office to shame them into resignation.

—E.P. DAKANAY JR., 43 Baltazar St., Philamlife Village, Pamplona, Las Piñas City

What's behind calling CPP-NDF-NPA a foreign terrorist organization?

WASHINGTON listed the Communist Party of the Philippines-National Democratic Front-New People's Army as a "foreign terrorist organization" to serve President Bush's war on terror, not to help the Filipino people or their government.

By classifying the CPP-NDF-NPA as an FTO, Washington has improvised an alibi to pursue its war on terror in the Philippines on a scale much larger and much more dramatic than in the anti-Abu Sayyaf exercises in Basilan and Zamboanga. Since there is a dearth of countries willing to host Bush's war on terror, Washington badly needs the anti-CPP-NDF-NPA campaign scheduled to start in October in Luzon and other parts of the country. Without an enlarged war theater here, Bush's war on terror would lose steam, especially in the face of the growing reluctance of US allies in Europe and the Middle East to join Bush's regime change project in Iraq. Bush is increasingly being perceived as an arrogant, global dictator.

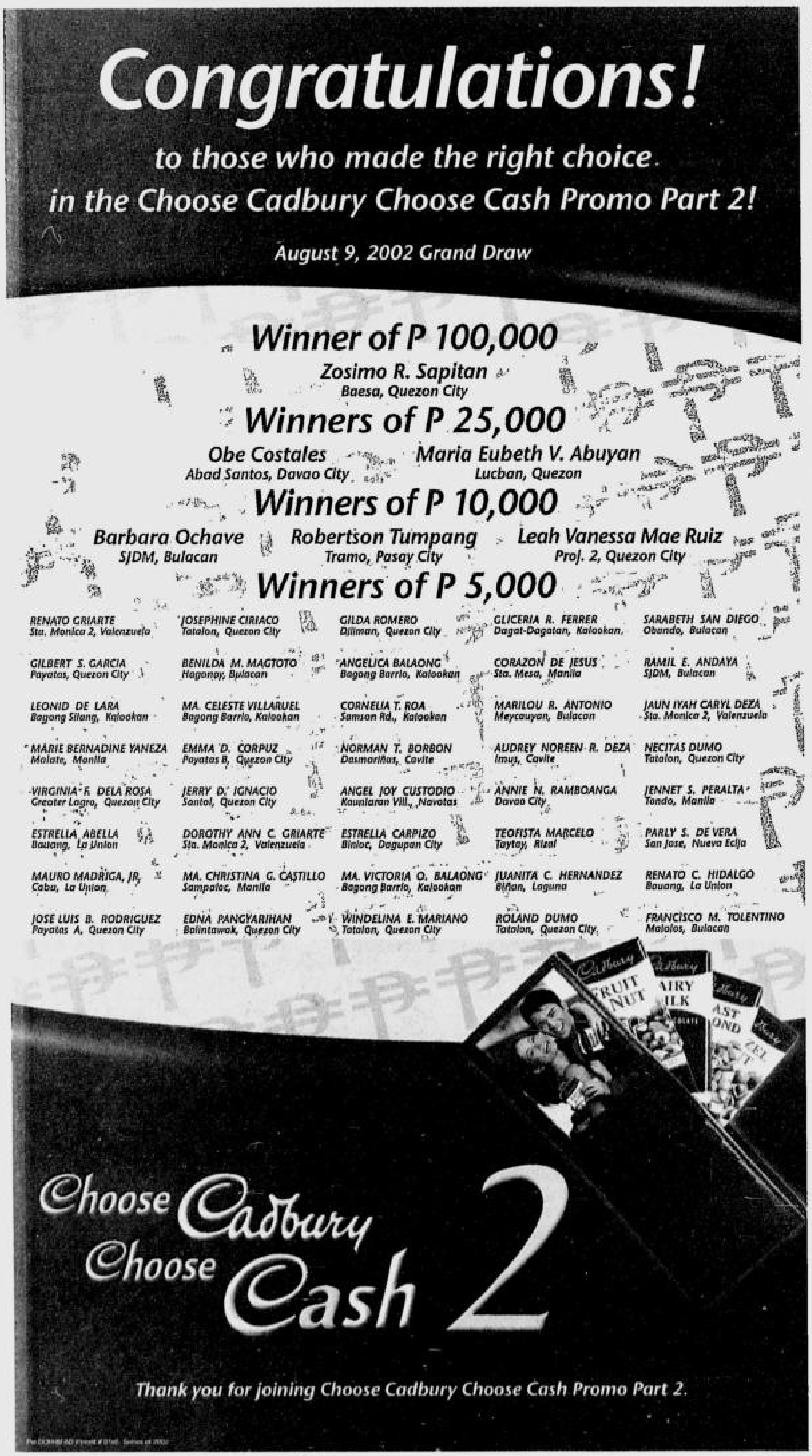
Bush urgently needs an enlarged war on terror to ensure the victory of the Republican Party in the November elections and his dream to run as a wartime president in 2004, to sustain the multi-billion-dollar arms development projects of the US military-industrial complex, and to accelerate America's recovery from a stubborn recession. Bush is so desperate to help the Republican Party gain control of the US Senate that, in violation of America's free trade commitments, he imposed a 30-percent tariff on imported steel and railroaded a huge farm subsidy law to win steel industry and farm votes. Bush's desperation is aggravated by the growing impression of American voters that Bush is a good commander in chief against terrorism but, being beholden to America's big business, unreliable as commander in chief of the economy.

On the Philippines, the effect of listing the CPP-NDF-NPA as an FTO is to further derail our national efforts to address poverty and injustice—the central problems which generate and sustain insurgency in our country. The Balikatan exercises scheduled in October would add violence to poverty and injustice at the mass level and, as in Vietnam, transform our countryside into hell. In dealing with the CPP-NDF-NPA as FTO, the American soldiers participating in Balikatan exercises will now be open, undisguised combatants and, therefore, legitimate targets of CPP-NDF-NPA guerrillas and their sympathizers. The Vietnamization of the Philippines will start soon.

Witch-hunters in the Macapagal administration are misguided. Instead of directing their anti-communist missiles at Vice President Teofisto Guingona, they should direct them at US multinational corporations pouring their foreign direct investments in communist countries. The preferred destinations of US foreign direct investments are the remaining communist countries: China, Vietnam, Cuba and very soon North Korea. The latter recently took a first step to liberalizing its economy. Wall Street analysts see Vietnam transforming itself into a tiger economy in six years. And Americans now proclaim their love of country by displaying American flags mass-produced in China, as happened after 9/11.

Let us think for ourselves as Filipinos and act accordingly.

—AMADO GAT INCIONG, Unit 301 Union Square Condominium, 145 15th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City



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Liberated from the NPA

I WOULD like to commend the 204th Army Brigade commander in Calapan, Oriental Mindoro, Col. Jovito Paliparan Jr., for spearheading the liberation of 10 towns in our province from the influence of the New People's Army (NPA).

The government troops' dedication and bravery in stopping the NPA's illegal activities are really noteworthy. Thank God, they were able to win the people to the side of the government. The NPA has long inculcated false beliefs in the minds of my townfolks.

With the presence of the 204th Army Brigade and their efforts, these 10 towns are now back to normal and free from harassment, extortion and other criminal acts committed by NPA members against those they suspect of being government informants.

I am sure that the remaining towns still in NPA hands will follow suit and that the whole of Oriental Mindoro will be liberated from the godless NPA with the help of the military.

—DENNIS A. GUARANGO, Pinamalayan, Oriental Mindoro

Lesson from the Acsa Ramirez case

THE CASE of Acsa Ramirez is a lesson in humility, dignity and love. We have been expecting the President to accept a mistake and to apologize, but her National Bureau of Investigation director will not admit there was a mistake.

I guess this is an event where no one is willing to admit that a wrong has been done, and therefore there is no need to apologize. Assuming that there was no mistake, the fact is that there was damage done to a private citizen by an event that was started by the NBI, blessed by the President and heralded by the media in a press conference. And here we are asking for an apology. We are asking for an apology for a mistake, instead of an acceptance that there was a damage done to a person which neither Director Renaldo Wycoco nor the President will admit.

We should understand human nature. Wycoco is probably doing his job to shield the President from embarrassment and perhaps getting as much mileage on his image as a crime buster. And the President is trying to defend the actions of her subordinates.

And there is the matter of protocol. Should the President of the Philippines, unlike a king in a monarchy, apologize to a private citizen? Is it undignified for the President to apologize? When President Cory Aquino addressed a judge of the Regional Trial Court "sir," did she damage the dignity of the President of the Philippines? Was she undignified?

A lot of us commiserate with Ramirez for the unfortunate incident. Perhaps she could just let the events pass and forget about an apology. As to the dignity of the President of the Philippines, what value would that be to us anyway, if she herself disregards the feelings of citizens in the name of protocol and dignity? At least we know that a wrong has been done. And no one is humble enough to admit it, that protocol should be followed and people have ambitions.

We learned a lesson. Avoid getting involved with the NBI or you will be another Acsa Ramirez.

—ROMULO R. SISON, Marikina City

Rebuffed machismo

THANK you very much for running a front-page story about my case against Robert Johnson Go and Eric Severino for sexual harassment and acts of lasciviousness. Many women like me have nobody to rely on but the INQUIRER to fight these influential sexual predators.

May I point out some allegations cited to favor Go and Severino that have become twisted facts. First, Lance Gokongwei alluded to the case as another demolition job against his family because "this story suddenly comes out."

The truth is, shortly after I resigned on June 30, 2000, a senator kindly offered to mediate and brought my case to John Gokongwei's attention for possible settlement. When the senator's letter was received, Gokongwei called him up, cavalierly dismissed my claim and somewhat mockingly said, "Compadre, how could you believe that woman who has an unstable mind?" The senator was so furious and recalled the days when Gokongwei would drop everything he was doing and run to the senator when such a letter was received.

Second, Go and Severino maintained that the National Bureau of Investigation was partial to me. The truth is, it took the NBI over a year to endorse the case to the Quezon City prosecutor because of the dilatory tactics of their lawyers who used every legal trick to delay the investigation.

Third, Go and Severino claimed that I was "not a model employee." If that was true, why did Severino give me a performance rating of 92 percent after only one year on the job? As a result, I got a salary raise from P70,000 to a little over P80,000 monthly.

No woman in my situation, a single mother of four, would give up that salary and ignore the enticements of a new promotion if there was a way to endure Go's and Severino's sexual harassment. Or if Go really found me an undesirable 49-year-old grandmother and stopped his predatory advances as he now claims. It's also the reason why I didn't resign and file the case sooner, which they used as a defense. I was hoping Go and Severino would stop harassing me and I could continue on the job I needed so badly.

Some psychologists have said it's the first line of defense of sexual predators to humiliate their object since they are more humiliated when their advances are stopped because of their rebuffed macho feelings.

—MARIQUIT E. SORIANO,
122 Mariposa Loop, Mariposa St.,
Cubao, Quezon City

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$3,000B FROM 'TERROR FINANCIERS'

9/11 victims sue Saudi princes, Sudan

WASHINGTON—More than 600 people who lost loved ones in the September 11 terror attacks filed a civil suit Thursday against three members of the Saudi royal family, Sudan, and several Gulf banks, accusing them of covertly financing the al-Qaida network, their lawyer said.

The suit by 9/11 Families United to Bankrupt Terrorism is also aimed at al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden—the suspected mastermind of the attacks that killed more than 3,000 people—and Afghanistan's former Taliban militia, which harbored Bin Laden and his network.

"One of the main goals of this lawsuit is to allow the families to publicly air the facts as we learned them," Ron Motley, the lead attorney in the case, told a press conference.

"We have solid evidence. In the complaint we detailed how the money got sent to various places, we name names, we name places," he added.

The suit seeks at least $1,000 to $3,000 billion in punitive damages for each of the 14 counts from 99 organizations or individuals. It also seeks $100 trillion in damages from Sudan.

Motley said the figures were likely to change as the number of plaintiffs increases.

"We expect to have a thousand families listed as plaintiffs by September," he added.

Three Saudi princes are among those named: Defense Minister Sultan bin Abdul Aziz al-Saud, former intelligence chief Turki al-Faisal al-Saud, and businessman Mohammed al-Faisal al-Saud.

The suit alleges that Prince Turki al-Faysal al-Saud agreed in 1998 not to seek the extradition of bin Laden from Afghanistan and extended "generous assistance" to the Taliban militia in exchange for bin Laden's agreement not to use Afghanistan as a base of operations to destabilize the Riyadh government.

"We expect the Saudi nationals and the Gulf banks to fight. But they're going to have to fight here. They must appear in court here," said Motley, a lawyer who played a key role in lawsuits against the tobacco industry.

The State Department declined to comment on the lawsuit but reiterated its longstanding position that the Saudi government has been helpful in the war against terrorism.

"We've been quite clear about the support that Saudi Arabia has given to us in terms of being a strong friend and ally in the war against terrorism," deputy spokesperson Phip Reeker said.

"We've been fully and very satisfied with the support we've gotten from Saudi Arabia in the many aspects of this war against terrorism," he said.

The seven banks named in the suit are: Al Baraka Investment and Development Corporation, National Commercial Bank, Faisal Islamic Bank, Al Rajhi Banking and Investment, Al Barakaat Exchange LLC, Dar Al Maal Al Islami and Al Shamal Islamic Bank.

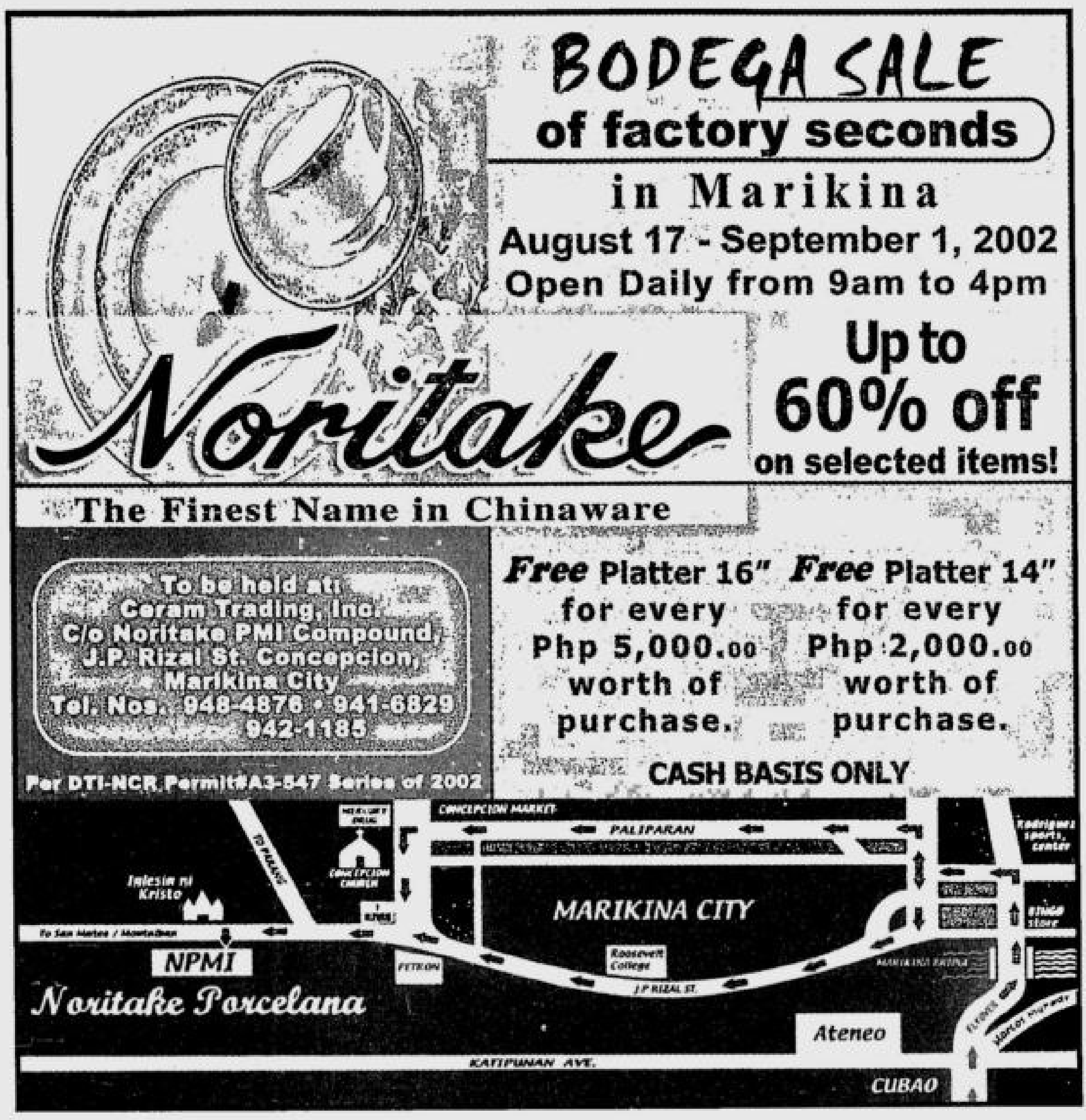
The Islamic groups it single out are: International Islamic Relief Organization, Sanabel Al Kheer Inc., Muslim World League, Saar Foundation, Rabita Trust, Al-Haramain Islamic Foundation Inc., Benevolence International Foundation and the World Assembly of Muslim Youth.

The suit also seeks damages from the Bin Laden family's construction firm, the Saudi Bin Laden Group, and claims that Saudi Prince Sultan has donated at least $6 million since 1994 to four so-called Islamic charities which actually financed al-Qaida.

"We will cut off the financial pipeline that fuels terrorism here and around the world," said William Doyle, whose 25-year-old son died in the attack on the World Trade Center last year.

"We will move terrorist financing schemes out of the shadows and into the light of day," said Thomas Burnett, whose son led the charge against the hijackers on Flight 93 United Airlines which crashed in a Pennsylvania field.

"We will expose for the world the shady underbelly behind the atrocities of September 11, leaving those with evil intentions nowhere to hide and no place to escape accountability." AFP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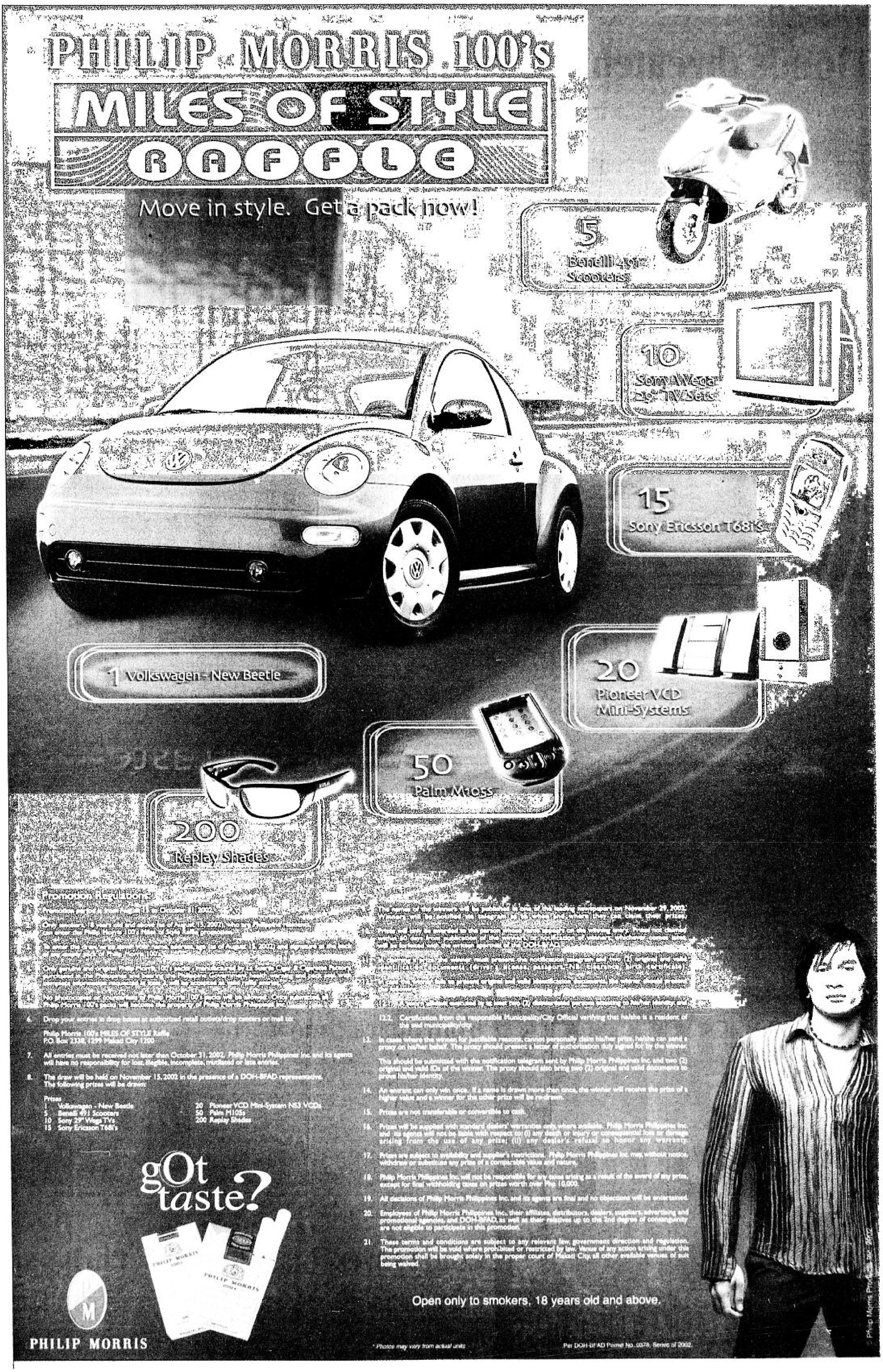

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Floods threaten to submerge Dresden

DRESDEN, Germany—The worst floods in over a century drove tens of thousands from their homes across eastern Germany on Friday as rising water levels threatened to submerge the historic center of the baroque city of Dresden.

While waters in Prague receded to reveal the extent of the damage wrought by floods which have caused havoc in central Europe this week, residents of east German towns along the River Elbe and its tributaries braced themselves for more flooding.

Countries along the route of the floods struggled to come to terms with the multi-billion-euro cost of cleaning up after the catastrophe, which has killed more than 80 people from the Black Sea to the Baltic.

There were fears the historic old town center of Dresden, the capital of the state of Saxony which was destroyed by British and American bombers in 1945 and only properly rebuilt in the past 10 years, may be swamped.

By the early hours of Friday morning, the river Elbe had reached a height of 8.60 meters, just 17 centimeters short of the highest level on record, 8.77 meters in 1845. "There are some projections which say it could reach nine meters by Saturday morning," said police spokesperson Marko Laske.

Volunteers battled by torchlight through the night, piling up sandbags to protect the center, which boasts architectural treasures including the Zwinger palace, the Semper opera and the cathedral. Only a small part of the old town was under water, and only by a few inches, said Laske.

Streetlights were turned off in the town center, plunging it into darkness and giving the town an eerie atmosphere as thousands of black shapes of people walked about inspecting the hugely swollen river rushing down below them.

"This is ghostly and frightening," said Falk Herrgott, a Dresden resident. "It's sad what's happening to our town but this is nature. It shows how unimportant we are."

Blue lights and sirens from long columns of Red Cross vans pierced the night. To make matters worse, it started to rain again during the night.

"You can't escape the water, it just catches up with you," said Walter Beltz, a vicar whose Protestant Reform Church by the river was flooded.

The German government said it was prepared to foot the bill for billions of euros worth of repairs to its public infrastructure and announced it was providing hundreds of millions in emergency cash relief to flood victims. *Reuters*

PRAGUE Castle looms over the partially flooded Mala Strana district in Prague, Czech Republic, August 15 as the swollen Vltava River runs by. The Vltava began going down after reaching its peak the day before though danger was still looming as at least two buildings collapsed in working-class districts near the center. GETTY IMAGES

Indonesia acquittals stir wide outrage

JAKARTA, Indonesia—The acquittals of six Indonesian commanders accused of inciting a wave of terror when East Timor voted for independence in 1999 have outraged foreign governments, rights groups as well as the nation's prime minister who denounced the outcome as farcical.

The astonishing verdicts by Indonesian special tribunals could jeopardize efforts to re-establish military ties with the United States as part of Washington's war on terror, a former US ambassador to Jakarta warned Friday.

In New Zealand, Foreign Minister Phil Goff said it was essential "that justice is not merely paid lip-service, but that it is actually delivered."

"The international community will have no confidence in the outcomes of these tribunal hearings when those who were told to commit crimes and those who were responsible for giving the orders . . . are not properly punished," Goff said in a statement.

Australia, which led an international peacekeeping force that expelled the Indonesian military from East Timor, also expressed disappointment.

"We are continuing to watch the processes closely and believe (they) need to go forward independently and with integrity because justice must be done," said Chris Kenny, a spokesperson for Foreign Affairs Minister Alexander Downer.

In East Timor, dozens of former pro-Indonesian militiamen forced their way out of a jail in the capital, Dili, complaining that it was not fair for them to be serving long prison terms for the violence while the true culprits went free.

"This means that the whole process is really a farce," East Timorese Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri said.

Police forced some of the inmates back inside, and officials negotiated with the rest, but there was no immediate resolution to the standoff. *AP*

Peru first lady forced to quit $11,400/mo-job

LIMA—Peru's First Lady Eliane Karp said she quit her job with a private bank—and its $11,400 a month salary, which she said was perfectly legal, and denied she was ever involved in influence peddling.

In a statement issued late Thursday, the wife of President Alejandro Toledo said the allegations of impropriety were part of "political maneuvers seeking to harm the presidential couple."

She said it saddened her to resign as consultant for the Wiese Sudameris Bank, adding that she was the victim "of political harassment by people who want to destabilize the government and the democracy for which I have fought so hard."

The statement was an attempt by the Toledo administration to defuse the ethic scandal that had been broiling for a week since La Razon daily disclosed that Karp, an anthropologist and economist, had been working since January 2001 for a the Wiese Sudameris Bank.

Congress is set to investigate the bank for its links to an alleged corruption ring run by disgraced former president Alberto Fujimori and his spy chief Vladimiro Montesinos—Fujimori is exiled in Japan, Montesinos is in prison.

Karp's statement followed comments on television late Wednesday by Wiese Sudameris Bank President Eugenio Bertini, who said: "After all this, I hope the employment contract (with the First Lady) is finished."

Aside from conflict of interest allegations arising from Karp's employment with a private bank and her "honorary" office as First Lady—some analysts believe she has great influence in cabinet matters, the fact that Bertini was Montesinos' personal banker had also raised questions of possible impropriety. *AFP*

Israeli soldiers kill Gaza boy, 2 militants

GAZA CITY—Three Palestinians, including a boy and two militants caught trying to attack a main checkpoint, were killed in the Gaza Strip Thursday, after security talks between Israel and the Palestinians on a phased Israeli withdrawal were put off at the last minute.

The Israeli army said one of its units patrolling the Kissoufim Crossing between the central Gaza Strip and Israel had spotted two men trying use the cover of darkness to crawl under a security barrier with a large bag.

"This unit opened fire in their direction and both of them were killed," it said in a statement, adding that the bag contained a large amount of explosives and praised its soldiers for preventing a major attack.

There was no word on the identities of the Palestinians or any claim of responsibility for the failed attack, which came hard on the heels of the death of a Palestinian boy in the nearby town of Khan Yunis.

According to Palestinian hospital and security officials, five-year-old Ayman Fares was killed after being shot in the head by Israeli soldiers who opened fired on the area. His father Nidal, 60 and another man aged 40 were hit in the chest and seriously injured, they added.

Khan Yunis is just a few hundred meters from the heavily guarded Jewish settlement bloc of Gush Katif, and exchanges of fire are common. Houses along the western edge of the town are riddled with bullet and shell holes. *AFP*

Malaysia rehires aliens, but whippings continue

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia—Malaysia has issued almost 30,000 new permits for foreign workers in the two weeks since it imposed tough new penalties—including whipping—for illegal immigrants, an official was reported Friday as saying.

New laws aimed at cracking down on illegal foreign workers caused more than 300,000 illegal immigrants, mostly Indonesians, to flee Malaysia in recent months and prompted warnings from employers that the loss of manpower would hurt the economy.

Dozens of people have been sentenced to prison and strokes of a rattan cane since charges under the new laws started going before courts last Saturday. On Thursday, 26 people were sentenced in courts in several different states to various punishments under the new laws, the New Straits Times newspaper reported.

Deputy Home Minister Zainal Abidin Zin said almost 30,000 work permits had been issued since July 31, the deadline set for illegal workers to get out of Malaysia without punishment, the paper reported.

Officials were not immediately available to confirm the figure.

He said the government understood employers' concerns about a work force shortage, but that the crackdown would continue to try to reduce crimes blamed on illegal workers.

"There is no compromise for anyone who breaks the law," Zainal was quoted as saying. "Punishment will be meted out. When we say whip, we whip."

Officials estimated that before the crackdown up to 600,000 illegal workers formed a labor black market in Malaysia, one of Southeast Asia's wealthiest countries and a magnet for migrants fleeing poverty and violence in the region. *AP*

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US bound to get lesson from attack, Iraq warns

BAGHDAD—Iraq warned Friday that Washington would be taught a lesson it will never forget if it launched a military campaign against Saddam Hussein's regime, threats of which have left the Iraqi people unbowed.

"Statements and threats by American officials cannot terrorize the people of Iraq because their victory over the United States is guaranteed," the official Al-Iraq newspaper said.

"The Iraqis are ready to engage in a war against the United States and are determined to teach the Americans a lesson they will never forget."

Ath-Thawra, mouthpiece of the ruling Baath party in Baghdad, accused Washington of "adopting a policy of lies towards Iraq by making believe that the country produces weapons of mass destruction."

The papers were reacting to statements Thursday by US President George W. Bush's national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice, that there was a "very powerful moral case" for ousting the Iraqi leader. *AFP*

AN IRAQI Fidaiyun Saddam female volunteer prepares August 15 in Baghdad for a possible US military offensive against their country. GETTY IMAGES

Court saves 'blasphemous' Christian

ISLAMABAD—Pakistan's Supreme Court has acquitted a Christian man sentenced to death for committing blasphemy by defending British author Salman Rushdie, a court official said Friday.

The Islamic country's highest court ruled Thursday that Ayub Masih, jailed since 1996, be released immediately.

The ruling overturns last year's decision by the Lahore High Court to uphold the conviction and death penalty, which was first awarded in 1998 by a district court in Sahiwal in central Punjab province.

Ayub Masih was charged with blasphemy in 1996 for allegedly speaking against Islam and in favor of Rushdie, whose novel "The Satanic Verses" infuriated radical Muslim clerics who accused the author of defaming Islam.

Rushdie himself was the subject of a "fatwa" or religious edict sentencing him to death issued by late Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Masih's lawyer Abid Hasan Minto told the court the allegations were false and were leveled against his client by people who wanted to take his land, the Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) reported.

After Ayub was arrested, one of the complainants forcibly evicted his family from their premises and less than two months later asked for Ayub's land to be transferred to him, Minto alleged.

Ayub, a resident of Arifwala town in the Punjab district of Pakpattan Sharif, has consistently denied uttering any word against Islam or the Prophet Mohammad.

Justice Qazi Muhammad Farooq said he could not rule out the possibility the complainant fabricated the story.

Farooq said the plaintiff's intentions were suspicious after he occupied Ayub's land.

Masih's court conviction had triggered an uproar among the minority Christian community and human rights activists who had been demanding the repeal of the tough blasphemy laws.

Catholic Bishop John Joseph, from the industrial Punjab city of Faisalabad, who had been campaigning against the law, committed suicide in protest at the conviction by shooting himself in the head outside the court when the judgement was first passed in 1998.

Blasphemy is punishable by death under the Pakistan Penal Code. However no one convicted of blasphemy has ever been executed. *AFP*

Across the NATION

Assistant Editor **Tony Bergonia**

ROUNDUP

Suspect held

DAVAO CITY—The suspect in the robbery of a professor at the University of the Philippines in Mindanao (UP-Min) here was arrested by the police on Friday. UP-Min Prof. Dr. Guillermo Largo, Ph.D, went into coma and died days after he was hit in the head with a piece of wood when robbed on Aug. 2. On Friday, police arrested the suspect, Nestor Buhanghang. *Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Lahar flow warning

LEGAZPI CITY—Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) resident volcanologist Ed Laguerta has warned villagers along low-lying areas facing the southeast quadrant of the Mayon Volcano to take extra precautions for possible lahar flows. He said about 20 million cubic meters of volcanic debris are feared to cascade down the Mabinit, Bonga, Buyuan and Padang channels in this city, Bañadero Channel in Daraga and Basud Channel in Sto. Domingo, if intensive rains continue to occur this rainy season. The INQUIRER learned that residents near the foot of Mayon have returned home after the Phivolcs lifted the alert level despite the government's effort to resettle them to safer places. *Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

P3M farm roads

VIRAC, Catanduanes—President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered a P3-million allocation for the construction and improvement of farm-to-market roads in Catanduanes during her visit last week here. She also noted that Baras town should be given attention in terms of farm modernization. The President said Baras has a lot of farm products that can be developed, such as abaca fiber and *sinamay*, and marine products. She also ordered the National Power Corp. to lease two generators to the province to solve its power problem.
Melanie Valenciano, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

In search of kin

THE FAMILY of Mrs. Eufrocia Pacite Amar, who is dying of cancer, has made an appeal for her to see her brother before she dies. The family pleaded to anyone who knows the whereabouts of Nunuy Diging Pacita Ferrer of Negros Occidental to contact Eddie Amar (682-0031/0919-8717931), Florinda Amar (724-4171), Renato Amar (890-6560) or Nellie Amar (0919-8127425).

Holdup in Benguet

BAGUIO CITY—Three armed men held up employees of the Itogon Power Generation Corp. in Barangay Tinongdan, in Itogon, Benguet, on Wednesday. Police said the suspects blocked the vehicle of the employees and took P1 million in payroll money. ITPC finance officer Entrico Bambao, employee Brenda Apilis and driver Nestor Umali withdrew money from a bank here and were on their way back to the Binga hydroelectric dam site when they were held up at 1:35 p.m.
Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Bangus program boosted

DAGUPAN CITY—The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources' milkfish development program got a big boost with the allocation of P20 million for the program. Westly Rosario, BFAR research center chief, said Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor and Speaker Jose de Venecia gave P10 million each for the program. Rosario said the amount would fund the program's expansion through 10 satellite milkfish hatcheries in the country. He said the program is expected to solve the lack of milkfish fry in the country and enable the Philippines to export the fry. *Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Arrested for bribery

BAGUIO CITY—Agents of the National Bureau of Investigation on Wednesday arrested a truck supplier after the supplier offered P20,000 to a traffic policeman in exchange for the release of an impounded truck. Lawyer Rickson Chiong, NBI Cordillera director, identified the suspect as Norman Ramos, liaison officer of G. Defeo Gen. Merchandise. Ramos' firm supplied the P1.3-million truck for the Baguio City government. But officials of the Traffic Management Group impounded the truck after they discovered that the truck's parts were taken from several stolen trucks.
Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Pimentel van overturns

SOLANO, Nueva Vizcaya—Three members of Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel's party were hurt Friday when their van overturned and fell into an irrigation canal in Barangay Bangar here. Pimentel, along with his staff who were on a four-vehicle convoy, was on his way to Santiago City when the lead car, a Mitsubishi Montero, crashed into the canal on the national highway at 5:30 a.m. Pimentel, whose car was at the back of the convoy, was unhurt. Doctors identified those hurt as Amado Romillo and Arnold Segundo, Pimentel's friends, and lawyer Francis Navarette, a member of his staff. *Melvin Gascon and Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Unity for the poor

BIÑAN, Laguna—Opposition congressmen, Hon. Raffy Blazon of Muntinlupa and Hon. Gilbert Remulla of Cavite, and administration representatives, Hon. Uliran Joaquin of Laguna, and Hon. Prospero Nograles of Davao joined forces last Aug. 9 to support the cause of the South Metro urban poor owners. They encourage homeowners to support House Bill 2740 that would allow delinquent borrowers of the National Home Mortgage Finance Corp., Pag-ibig Fund, Government Service Insurance System and other housing agencies to continue paying their debts at amounts affordable to poor homeowners.
Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Press group condemns killing of witness in reporter's slay

DAVAO CITY—The Reporters Sans Frontieres expressed outrage over the killing of a potential witness in the May 13 murder of Pagadian City journalist Edgar Damalerio.

In a statement posted on its website (http://www.rsf.fr) on Aug. 14, RSF, an organization defending freedom of the press, said the death of Jury Ladica on Aug. 10 proved that the killers of Damalerio were determined to eliminate witnesses to kill the case.

Gemma Damalerio, the wife of the slain journalist, told the INQUIRER that Ladica, also known as Juvy Lobitana, was the first to be contracted to kill her husband.

"He was the first to be offered the job of killing Edgar but he declined after knowing that my husband was not in the OB (order of battle)," Gemma said.

After Damalerio was killed, Ladica surfaced and approached one of the witnesses in the killing of the journalist.

"He had wanted to come out right after Edgar was killed but he was apprehensive," Gemma said.

Lawyer Friolo Icao, chief of the National Bureau of Investigation in Pagadian City, said he was not aware that Ladica was a possible witness.

"I've never heard of him. As far as we are concerned, there were only two key witnesses to the slaying," Icao told the INQUIRER.

Gemma said Ladica was supposed to formalize his statement on Aug. 11.

But on Aug. 10, a group of armed men gunned him down in Tukuran, Zamboanga del Sur.

"But he managed to issue a handwritten statement naming those who approached him to kill my husband," she said.

Edgar Amoro, a vital witness in the Damalerio slaying confirmed that Ladica was the original gunman contracted to kill the journalist.

Like Gemma, he said that Ladica declined after knowing that Damalerio was not in the list of those to be executed for their ties with the communists.

"At the time of his death, Ladica served as a military asset," Amoro told the INQUIRER.

Ladica's death had alarmed RFS.

In a letter to Interior Secretary Jose Lina, RFS secretary general Robert Menard said the murder of the witness was alarming.

RSF also urged Lina to order the arrest of Pagadian City police chief Supt. Asuri Hawani, who was suspected of having ordered the killing of Damalerio.

"Must the authorities wait until the other two witnesses are eliminated before intervening effectively in a case that has already caused enough damage to the reputation of the Philippine police," Menard asked in his letter to Lina.

In Davao City, the Department of Justice (DOJ) created a special body composed of state prosecutors to find out if there is *prima facie* case in the reported murder of campus journalist and human rights worker Benjaline "Beng" Hernandez.

Earlier, the Hernandez family filed complaints of murder and multiple murder against members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and paramilitary troopers who killed Hernandez in Arakan, Cotabato on April 5.

Ariel Casilao, deputy secretary general of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, said Justice Secretary Hernando Perez has assigned a state prosecutor from the DOJ to head the investigating team, which will be composed of prosecutors from Davao City. *Allan Nawal, Hernan de la Cruz, Ayan Mellejor and Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Another fisherman survives 2-day ordeal at sea in Negros

BACOLOD CITY—Another fisherman survived a two-day ordeal at sea after his motor banca capsized in waters off southern Negros Occidental last Aug. 12.

Ronald Amancio of Hinobaan town, Negros Occidental drifted to shore in Barangay Tinago, Bayawan town, Negros Oriental on Aug. 14.

Dave Cuajao, a staff of the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Management Team (PDCMT), said Amancio was still recuperating at a hospital in Bayawan on Thursday.

Amancio was the fourth fisherman who survived the sinking of the three pumpboats last Aug. 12.

The three others (who were wrongly published as dead on Thursday) were Cerelo Sanoy, Edgar Verzuela and Danilo Blanco.

Sanoy and Verzuela were rescued on Wednesday after they were washed ashore in Basay town, Negros Oriental, about 77 kilometers south of Hinobaan. Blanco was also found along the beach in Bayawan also on Wednesday.

Search and rescue operations were conducted for the 10 other fishermen who were still missing.

They were identified as Wilfredo Labrado, Benito Alegre, Teodoro Amancio Jr., Ildefonso Decena, Jerry Tejada, Merde Balugcas, Jason Sandoval, alias Patring, alias Estoy and Renato Sandoval.

The 14 fishermen from Barangay Bacuyangan, Hinobaan, who boarded in three pump boats and sailed to sea off southern Negros Occidental last Aug. 12.

But strong waves spawned by tropical depression Milenyo battered their motor boats, causing them to capsize.
Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Socrates to appeal Comelec ruling

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Lawyer Edwin Gastanes, counsel of Puerto Princesa City Mayor Victorino Dennis Socrates, said he will file before the Supreme Court a motion for a temporary restraining order in a bid to stop the recall election against Socrates.

The Commission on Elections sitting *en banc* decided last week in favor of the resolution for a recall election against Socrates filed by barangay officials during a Preparatory Recall Assembly (PRA) last July 2.

Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos announced that after a thorough evaluation of the resolution passed by the PRA, the Comelec was able to prove its validity and immediately decided to set an election.

Abalos said the election would take place probably on Sept. 7.

The Comelec said they would welcome any legal action from the camp of Socrates.

Abalos said the Socrates camp has all the right to bring the case to the Supreme Court.

Former city mayor Edward Hagedorn and engineer Sandy Sandoval, who both declared their intention to run in the recall election, expressed enthusiasm over the decision of the Comelec in favor of the recall election.

Hagedorn said the efforts of the PRA members to move for a recall were proven fruitful.

In a local radio interview, Hagedorn said he is "still warmly welcomed" by the residents of the city.

This, he said, was proven in his visits to different barangays in the city. *Geraldford Ticke, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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INQUIRER Visayas
Editor Jun Bandayrel ● Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

Good Samaritans turn up for sick boy

By Edra L. Benedicto
Cebu City

NELDA Dablo's eyes went blank for a while. She could not believe what she was hearing: There was enough money to sustain her son's chemotherapy up to the end of the year.

When Nelda came to the Inquirer Visayas Bureau office last month to seek help for her ailing nine-year-old son Ronel, we told her we could only hope and trust on the generosity of the INQUIRER readers.

She came back to the bureau's office last week expecting a few thousand pesos that could help pay for the July chemotherapy requirement of Ronel. When we told her that there was P78,000 in cash and checks for Ronel, Nelda was so stunned she was very quiet for a long time.

There were no tears this time. But her face, made gaunt by months of worrying where next to find the cash to pay for her son's treatment, mirrored everything that Nelda could not say: relief, gratitude, joy.

What followed after the story of Ronel saw print in the Inquirer Visayas (July 20, 2002) was not just a show of generosity. There was empathy and more.

For over a week after Ronel's story was published, the Visayas Bureau's telephone would not stop ringing with inquiries from INQUIRER readers on how they could send their help for Ronel, the boy stricken with leukemia and who badly needed help for his monthly chemotherapy and maintenance medicine.

The calls came from places as far apart as Lucena City and Laoag in Luzon to Davao City in Mindanao. The INQUIRER's Makati office has also its own share of inquiries.

One striking similarity about the offers of help was that the donors all wanted to remain anonymous. A simple thank you was enough for them.

But that was not even the best part. Several of the donors were themselves going through difficult times, emotionally and financially, and yet still found it in their hearts to give.

Sharing the blessings

A 34-year-old mother called from Manila. The story of Ronel touched her because her only child, five-year-old Eloise Nica, is stricken with the same ailment.

She was not rich, the mother said. But lucky for her, she said, she has generous in-laws who took care of the chemotherapy of her daughter.

The mother and daughter, who are from Davao City, are now at Saint Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City for her daughter's treatment.

When her daughter was diagnosed with leukemia several months ago, she said she felt like her world caved in. Nica came to her and her husband after two miscarriages. She is their "whole world."

To go through the agony of knowing that you could lose your child to cancer was difficult enough, she said. It must be doubly hard for Nelda, she added, because she has to scrounge for money to meet her son's medical needs.

Because her family was blessed to have relatives willing to shoulder her daughter's treatment, the mother said she would want to share her blessings with Ronel. The bureau's office received money orders totaling P5,000 in Nelda's name a few days later.

The mother was reluctant to be identified but later relented to give her daughter's name in the hope that readers would also pray for the recovery of Eloise Nica.

"I'm also a mother; I just want to help," said another caller, a young woman from Cebu City. A middle-level manager of a private firm, the young mother came to the bureau office during her lunch break on July 22 to give two checks totaling P5,000. She was soaking wet because it was raining hard that day.

Another woman showed up at the bureau office in the morning of July 27. She left an envelope "for Ronel." She declined to give her name. The envelope contained P10,000 in cash.

Another donor, from Metro Manila, read Ronel's story while keeping watch over a seriously ill family member. Despite the emotional and financial strain that her family must have been facing, they still decided they would want to help the boy from Cebu and donated P10,000.

Three other callers—two male foreigners and a Filipina—asked how they could sponsor Ronel's chemotherapy for a certain duration.

Within the week, a total of P15,000 in cash and P63,000 in checks were sent for Ronel.

For an apple, too

Nelda's hands were trembling as she accepted the cash. "Kadaku niani (This is a lot)," she said.

On that day, July 29, Nelda and Ronel were on their way to the hospital for the child's chemotherapy. The money was more than the P10,000 needed for the treatment and maintenance medicines..

Nelda looked at us and asked in Cebuano: "could I use some of the money to buy Ronel a few pieces of apples? He would always get hungry after the chemo but there was little money left. The last time, he wanted an apple we saw being sold just outside the hospital but I could only afford to buy him a banana cue."

One could only wonder how the child could regain his strength with only two pieces of roasted banana in his belly. Added to that was the almost two hours trip by bus and foot that mother and child had to go through every time Ronel is due for treatment in the city.

Nelda and Ronel, along with his part-time construction worker father and two siblings, now live with Nelda's sister in the hinterland village of Gaway-Gaway in the southern Cebu town of Naga. They used to own a house on the roadside village of Uling, also in Naga, but it had long been sold to pay for Ronel's treatment. Gaway-Gaway could only be reached by foot but the Dablo family had no choice but to live there since they have nowhere else to go.

Ronel sat quietly beside his mother as Nelda narrated the difficulty of going to and from Gaway-Gaway. He had refused to say a word. But his eyes lit up when he heard he could have as many apples as he wanted after his treatment.

Since Nelda never had a bank account, an account was opened at the United Overseas Bank main branch along Osmena Boulevard for the donated checks. The bank's senior manager, Cesar Co, facilitated the opening of the trust account, in Ronel's name, and waived the identification requirement since Nelda had none.

Aware of the situation that Ronel was in, the bank also gifted Ronel with a writing kit (note pads, folders, colored pens, etc.) that it usually gives along with newly opened kid accounts.

The writing kit

The day that Ronel came to the bank with his mother to pick up his kit and the bankbook, he still had to wear a mask. It was just four days since his chemotherapy and he needed to be protected from any form of viral or bacterial infection. But when presented with the array of writing kits he had to choose from, Ronel excitedly chatted behind his mask as he pointed to his mother what he wanted.

Ronel was supposed to be on his third grade now but he was forced to stop schooling after he was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia last year.

For a child whose only ambition was to finish his studies so he could help his parents, getting the writing kit was the next best thing.

Ronel, according to his attending physician, Dr. Jose Antonio Quitevis, was still on level one of his leukemia and has a great chance of surviving the illness.

But while the cost of Ronel's treatment has been covered up to the end of this year, the child still has a long way to go. Ronel still has two and a half years of chemotherapy to go through.

For now, however, Nelda said she was just too happy to see the excitement on Ronel's face as he bit on his apple and clutched his writing kit; and that for the next six months at least, Ronel got another lease on life.

> 'One could only wonder how the child could regain his strength with only two pieces of roasted banana in his belly'

RONEL and his mother at a bank in Cebu City.

THE MOTHER and child at the Inquirer Visayas Bureau office last month.

FILE/PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

It's 'clean up' time again

BACOLOD EXCHANGE

Ninfa R. Leonarda

THE PEOPLE of Bacolod City are very happy that the judging season for the national clean and green contest has been announced and the evaluation for contending local government units is starting. At least now they can hope that the garbage spilling into the streets will be collected and the stench will go away.

After the judging, and maybe the awarding, then things will be back to normal. And if, as the city administration is predicting, it wins again this year and attains the Hall of Fame, then there will be no need to hire so many casual workers, to go into the crash program of cleaning and greening.

But one area where Bacolod will surely win hands down if there will be a national contest for it is that of "most horrific traffic situation" among all highly-urbanized cities in the country. Nowhere will the judges see a city where smoke-belchers, motorized tricycles and foot-pedaled ones locally known as "trisikads" rule the streets, even the main ones, in the downtown area, with total impunity.

They will also never see anywhere a so-called sophisticated city where jeepneys, taxis and even private vehicles breeze through red lights, or stop right in the middle of the street, sometimes diagonally, to unload or pick up passengers. And nowhere will they see such tolerant and intolerable traffic enforcers who seem to have no idea of their task, seeing that most of them are in the job because of political accommodation.

Obviously, ordinances affecting traffic are no longer being observed, because huge cargo trucks, container vans and other ultra heavy carrier vehicles now grunt and groan through main streets day and night. What ever happened to a supposed ordinance prohibiting them from entering the city proper? A circumferential road built purposely for their use is being ignored, since it takes longer to pass it.

* * *

As of this writing, city hospitals are starting to fill up with dengue patients and residents are appalled, considering that their city used to be tagged as "epidemic-free" by the health department five or six years ago.

When there were a few cases noted in those days, the sitting mayor, Luzviminda Valdez, who was then a councilor, used to denounce the administration. Now she had even proudly announced that former mayor Alfredo Montelibano Jr. is one of the latest victims of dengue, as if such a declaration was a badge of distinction.

But of course, the mayor has so many other important matters to attend to. There is the coming election of the president of the Association of Barangay Captains where the incumbent, who is closest to her, appears to be in danger of being unseated. Also, a group of about fifteen new barangay captains has formed themselves into what they call a "blocking force" aimed at looking into the transactions of the city. The worrisome part is that more idealistic young officials seem interested in being part of the group, too.

There are also the cases that have gone up to the Ombudsman, like the non-payment of casual workers, particularly the ones who now claim that they were the ones made to do the crash cleaning and become part of the street crew at all hours just before the Clean and Green judging. A concerned councilor, taking up the cudgels for the workers, has raised the case to the Ombudsman. And then the city council also unanimously passed a resolution last week questioning before the Ombudsman the manner of hiring that the city mayor has adopted, which was without prior appropriation.

The city mayor's office is, indeed, very busy putting up damage control measures. Aside from a joint press conference with her vice mayor, Ramiro Garcia, with whom she has been at odds, she has also put up her huge portrait in a billboard—enumerating her accomplishments—at the highway near the airport.

* * *

The Little League players from Bacolod won the chance to again represent the country in the games to be held in the United States and, again, it was a suspense up to the last minute because they did not know where the funds for their tickets and other needs were coming from.

They could not hope for much from city hall, because Valdez is still being dunned by the travel agencies for the tickets taken from them on credit last year. In fact, one of the agencies is poised to file collection charges. The city council is of no help because they are also questioning why Valdez had issued a letter of guarantee to the company stating that the city will pay for the account, without consulting the council.

Another Ombudsman case is being considered, and that is where there is never a dull moment between the mayor and the city councilors.

* * *

The city as well as the whole of Negros Occidental is titillated by the stories about one of their congressmen, Jules Ledesma of the first district and sexy star Assunta de Rossi. The older generation are now recalling how Ledesma's father also married, first, one of the country's authentic beauties, the famous Susan Magalona, and later an Iloilo beauty, from the Lopez-Arenas family, who, like Assunta, was also much younger than him.

Nacorda thanks Senate

From page A1

an investigation and prosecution" of Dominguez, former 1st Tabak Division commander; Col. Jovenal Narcise, former 103rd Army Brigade commander; and Maj. Eliseo Campued, executive officer of the Army's 18th Infantry Battalion.

The three were accused of "misbehavior before the enemy, and conduct unbecoming of officers and gentlemen."

Malacañang will not get in the way of the recommended court martial.

"(The Armed Forces has) prescribed the procedure for investigating (its) officers and men, and I believe that's via court martial," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said at his regular briefing yesterday.

Bunye, however, noted that this procedure would take effect only when the Senate report signed by Senators Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Aquilino Pimentel Jr., and Sergio Osmeña became final.

"We have received comment from the AFP that they will respect the recommendation as long as it becomes final coming from the Senate," he said. "They can assure the people that their investigating officers will act with impartiality and with justice."

Bunye also said there was as yet no immediate reaction from President Macapagal-Arroyo on the matter.

The draft report found the three officers culpable for the unexplained escape of Abu Sayyaf gunmen from a military cordon in Lamitan on June 2, 2001.

It said there was sufficient circumstantial evidence to conclude that they colluded with the Abu Sayyaf, which was then holding hostages seized May 27, 2001, from the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan.

Thank you

The still feverish Nacorda said he would personally lead the sending of a "thank you letter" to the Senate.

"It shows that the Senate is doing its job," he said. "At least (the senators) have done something, which shows how principled these people are."

But he called on the military to be objective in the conduct of the court martial.

"I know they have discovered the questionable involvement of these officials (in the siege), but they were trying to cover it up," he said.

Dominguez acknowledged that the committee investigation had dragged on for so long that "the public was becoming impatient."

But he said the committee members were "just trying to do their job."

He told Bombo Radyo that the last time his involvement in the Lamitan incident cropped up was during the Commission on Appointments hearing when he was to be promoted to a two-star rank.

Dominguez took the approval of his promotion then as a refutation of charges that he conspired with the enemy in Lamitan.

Felisa Garcia, a Lamitan resident who has been following the developments of Nacorda's allegations against the military, said she was relieved.

"At last, our bravery in exposing the anomalies within the military bore fruit. I hope this good development would continue," she said in the vernacular.

Geronimo Lim, a Lamitan businessman, viewed the draft report as a cause for celebration.

"It calls for thanksgiving. We will give all our support to those who stood pat behind Nacorda in his quest for truth and justice," Lim said.

Amira Lidasan of the Moro Human Rights Alliance said the charge sheet should include retired Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, former AFP chief of staff, and the President "because of command responsibility."

Lidasan said the military officials should also be tried for the crackdown that occurred after the Lamitan siege.

"It was because of the Lamitan siege that they declared a state of lawlessness that led to the crackdown although it had no moral grounds," she said.

Ransom

Nacorda said it would have been better had the defense committee included "the ransom aspect, which will clearly point out my stand on collusion."

He said that he pointed this out to Osmeña in a phone call at around noon yesterday, and that the senator promised to make "some amendments" to the report.

"We stand firm that money has changed hands, and it involves around P25-27 million," he said. "And we have testimonies to prove that."

The priest said that based on witnesses' accounts, a total of P10 million went to the military officials, P10 million to the Abu Sayyaf under Abu Sabaya and Khadaffy Janjalani, and "the rest to local government officials."

Nacorda also suggested that Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar should be placed under investigation "because from time to time, his name would crop up."

The INQUIRER tried but failed to reach Akbar for comment.

In a statement made available to defense reporters in Camp Aguinaldo, Dominguez assailed senators who, he said, had "zero knowledge" of military nuances and were merely out to get "media mileage" from the case.

Dominguez also said "the priest's soul is now burning in hell."

In response, Nacorda said: "Well, if I die, I'm sure to meet him there."

Narcise told the INQUIRER by phone yesterday from Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija, that it was "our word against (that of) a priest."

Narcise, now chief of the 702nd Infantry Brigade based in Central Luzon, said Nacorda had fed the committee "second-hand information."

The officer said that Nacorda admitted during the investigation that the priest hid in the toilet at the height of the military operation, and that there was "no direct evidence" to prove he and his men violated three provisions in the Articles of War.

Narcise also told the INQUIRER in Mindanao that the publication of the draft report had not disturbed him.

"I am busy implementing our continuous effort to reduce, if not neutralize the dissident terrorists in Aurora, Nueva Ecija, Bulacan and Eastern Pangasinan," he said.

In one of his text messages, he bragged about the success of the operation he was leading.

"Whatever I applied there (Zamboanga City and Basilan), I applied it here, too," he said.

Impartial hearing

AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Roy Cimatu said the military would respect the Senate report and aired the assurance that an impartial hearing would be conducted.

"The AFP acknowledges and respects the report of the Senate," he told reporters. "We assure you that our judicial processes are fair, that we will render sound judgment, and that all members of our judicial system are honorable men. The judicial process will be even-handed."

The Judge Advocate General, Col. Manuel Ibanez, said they had yet to receive the Senate report.

He said that once the case was referred to them, it would pass pre-charge investigation and pre-trial investigation before going to the military court.

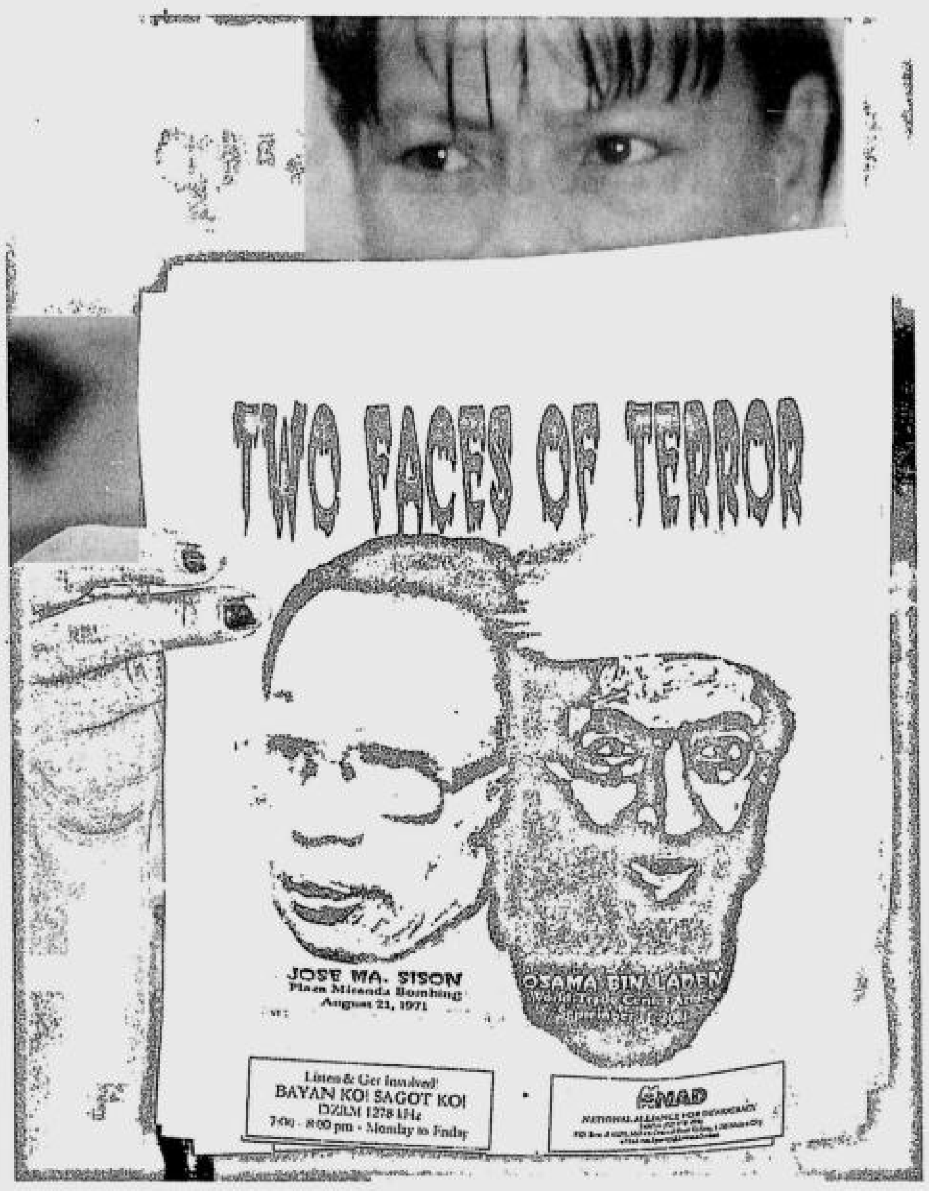
"Trials by court martial are open to the public," Ibanez said. "That is the procedure, unless the court sees it necessary to exclude the public."

In a statement, the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines said the defense committee's findings "offer relief to the people of Lamitan."

"The testimonies of the witnesses, encouraged by Fr. Cirilo Nacorda, were not in vain," the CBCP said.

But it said it was not "prejudging the case."

It added: "We affirm that the pursuit of the criminal group Abu Sayyaf should be without compromise… The CBCP is after the truth about the matter. Collusion of the military elements and the pursued enemy is a serious matter." ***With reports from Ayan C. Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Vicente S. Labro, PDI Visayas Bureau; Tonette Orejas and Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Carlito Pablo, Martin P. Marfil and TJ Burgonio***



ANTI-COMMUNIST protester portrays Sison and Osama Bin Laden as terrorists.

Leftist solons fear 'pork' freeze

From page A1

entities or front organizations being used by the CPP-NPA to hide the fruits of their illegal activities," he said in a statement.

Asked in an interview if Bayan or Bayan Muna were included in the list of organizations, Golez said: "No comment."

Social funds

In the House, Beltran said his group was watching closely whether its "hard" and "soft" PDAF projects were being blocked.

"It remains to be seen whether there will be moves to freeze the bank accounts being held by our organizations or the accounts the three representatives have in the (House of Representatives) Landbank branch where our social assistance and office maintenance funds are channeled," Beltran said.

Beltran said its PDAF projects are being implemented in close coordination with local governments and various agencies such as the Department of Public Works and Highways, Philippine General Hospital and the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Beltran also said there could be an ongoing effort to remove Bayan Muna representatives from Congress, with the revival of 13-year-old illegal gun possession charges against Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo, a former rebel spokesperson.

"I think I speak for the three of us when I say that we're not afraid and we're not worried," Beltran said.

He said the fact that Bayan Muna was being targeted by the administration only proved that its three representatives have been effective as "legislators of the people."

"We have been abiding (by) the rules of the House of Representatives and doing our tasks as members of the House to the best of our abilities," Beltran said.

"However, we never for a moment forgot that we are also leaders of the progressive mass movement and our greater work is (to) echo the demands and stands of the parliament of the streets," said Beltran, who also heads the militant Kilusang Mayo Uno.

"This is the reason why Bayan Muna is being targeted," he added.

If the administration maneuvers to have them kicked out, he said, "it will definitely make things more, shall we say, politically interesting."

He said they will not give up their three seats without a fight. "Bayan Muna garnered 1.7 million votes in the 2001 elections, and we're certain had there been no harassment against us during the campaign period we would have gotten more," Beltran said.

Normal lives

Biazon said Sison's impending resignation required a new way of dealing with the rebels.

"The government must anticipate this and prepare a new program vis-à-vis the communist insurgency to provide for this possibility that would allow the members of the NPA to return to normal lives," Biazon said.

Biazon said Sison's intention to retire was actually an abandonment of a failed cause, communism. He said Sison espoused a communist revolution that ruined the lives of many Filipinos, both civilian and military, and caused untold damage to the economy. "Jose Maria Sison must answer the question why he is now abandoning his comrades," he said.

Bunye told foreign correspondents that the international freeze on communist funding sources—declared by the Dutch and UK governments at the request of the United States—was a means to force the rebels back to the peace table.

"Legally, we don't have an anti-terrorism law but we are using the dictionary definition of terrorists … when they resort to arson, kidnapping and destruction of public property, extortion and intimidation, we consider them as terrorists," Bunye said.

"We are still open to talks with them in a back-channel mode," he added.

More than 40,000 people are estimated to have died in the 33-year-old communist insurgency.

At the Department of Foreign Affairs, Secretary Blas Ople expressed optimism that more countries would follow the lead of the Netherlands and the United Kingdom in freezing and blocking the flow of funds from their respective territories and into the accounts of the CPP.

"We expect the European Union to follow the Dutch and British nation because of the US call," Ople told reporters yesterday.

Bunye said Sison could come home if he wishes to, but "if there are (criminal) cases linked to him," he will be charged.

Asked if the government will issue Sison a passport, Bunye replied: "That might be a problem."

Golez said the rebels have raised about P542 million ($10.63 million) since 1996 domestically and about P51 million ($1 million) in foreign funds in 1998-2000. ***With reports from Norman Bordadora, Dona Pazzibugan, Reuters, AFP, AP***

Text power to herald Pope's return

From page A1

John Paul II in January 2003 will be heralded by a text campaign.

Wireless giant Smart Communications Inc. has launched a text-based trivia game and "virtual candle" campaign to help drum up support for the papal visit here to attend the 4th World Meeting of Families.

The theme for the Manila meeting is "The Christian Family: Good News for the Third Millennium," which will focus on the family's role in evangelization.

This will also be the first time that the major gathering will be held in Asia.

In cooperation with content provider Chikka Holdings Inc., Smart developed the "Light 4M Family Candles" text campaign that would allow its 7 million subscribers to light "virtual candles" for the success of the event.

For every virtual family candle lit, P10 will go to a "virtual donation box" that would help provide funds for the event.

To light a virtual candle, a subscriber just needs to key in the word "Candle" and send this via short messaging service (SMS) to 700.

Aside from the virtual candle campaign, Smart also launched the Lolek Trivia Challenge in honor of the Pope.

Lolek is the nickname of the Pope whose given name is Karol Wojtyla.

Grand prize: Vatican trip

Smart's subscribers will receive various facts about the Pope via SMS, which will serve as the basis for the weekly trivia challenge where winners get a chance to win a trip to the Vatican.

Subscribers can join the contest by keying in the word "Lolek" and sending this via SMS to 700.

"These two services aim to help the Church organizers raise the resources needed to stage the global event, which is seen to bring together thousands of families from all over the world to Manila," Smart's personal communications and mobile services division head Anastacio Martirez said in a statement.

He added that "a huge portion of the two text services' proceeds" would be donated to the organizers of the 4th World Meeting of Families.

"This is our way of showing support to worthwhile Church initiatives such as this," he said.

Smart will be installing real-time counters in key points all over the metropolis for the Light-a-Candle campaign. These counters will show exactly how many virtual candles have already been lit.

Mobile phones

For the Lolek Trivia Challenge, on the other hand, Smart will be giving away mobile phones to weekly winners, while the grand prize winner will get a trip to the Vatican.

"We have a huge number of cell phone users in the country. We hope that with these services, we will not only raise the funds needed but help build public awareness on the event as well," Martirez said.

The tri-annual Meeting of Families was initiated by the Pope and organized by the Council for the Family in the Vatican.

It will have two congresses: the International Theological and Pastoral Congress facilitated by experts, theologians and family-representatives, and the Congress of Sons and Daughters, an interactive catechesis participated in by children from 6 to 18 years old.

Lacson faces raps for hidden assets

From page A1

which detailed Lacson's various deposits in several US banks.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said his agency's anti-graft division chief, Jose Justo Yap, filed the charges at around 1 p.m. yesterday.

The NBI charged Lacson with non-disclosure of assets, perjury, and the non-filing of his statement of assets and liabilities and net worth (SALNW) while the senator was still a police officer.

Lacson was charged with four counts of violation of the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Government Officials and Employees for his non-filing of his SALNW for the years 1995, 1997, 1998 and 2000.

He was also charged with non-disclosure of business interests. His SALNW for 2001 did not allegedly include his interest in Orient Lights LLC in the United States, a firm reportedly engaged in import-export trading, specifically luxury cars from Europe and Japan.

But Lacson said the charges against him were part of Wycoco's "politically motivated publicity stunts."

"Wycoco is like a bedbug that keeps on biting and it is beginning to irritate me. The damage done so far is the itch that I have to scratch every now and then," he said.

The former national police chief said that while he has yet to see a copy of the formal complaint, he said he had nothing to fear, claiming he had always been truthful in filing his statements of assets and liabilities.

He said his best proof was the document itself.

"In any case, I see this as an opportunity for me to—once and for all—clear my name before the proper forum," he added.

Lacson and Wycoco were longtime rivals in the police service.

Perjury charges

Wycoco said the senator was charged with perjury after he reported in his 1996 SALNW that he only had P380,000 in cash and bank deposits.

But Wycoco said that Bank of America documents showed that, at that time, Lacson had $16,695.03 (or P438,954.08 at the exchange rate then) in a BA account (No. 17478-00046).

Lacson excluded this BA account from his 1996 SALNW, Wycoco said.

According to the US report, the senator maintained two bank accounts (Nos. 17471-00188 and 17478-0046) with Bank of America.

His wife Alice maintained four bank accounts with Wells Fargo (Nos. 071-3559789 and 201-8575365) and Bank of America (Nos. 24306-01369 and 24301-01390).

Lacson's BA account 17471-00188, which was opened on Nov. 29, 1995 and closed on Oct. 15, 1998, had deposits of $308,442 (P8,089,130.537) during its existence, Wycoco said.

His other BA account, 17478-0046, had accumulated $393,644.17, or the equivalent of P10,318,547 based on the peso-dollar rate prevailing at that time, Wycoco added.

One of Alice's Wells Fargo accounts (24301-01390) was opened with an initial deposit of $9,900 on Nov. 3, 2000. It accumulated a total of $455,611.15 (P22,690,595) before it was closed on Oct. 8, 2001.

Her other Wells Fargo account (24306-013669) reached a peak of $210,140.41 (P10,342,368) during the time it was active, from November 2000 to Aug. 8, 2001.

Last year, in a dramatic privilege speech, Lacson denied having dollar accounts in the United States.

But Wycoco said they confirmed the existence of the accounts after Commissioner Miles F. Erlich, assistant US attorney for the Northern District of California, provided the NBI and the Department of Justice with the necessary documents.

The government got the documents through the RP-US Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty, which allows the use in local courts of evidence American authorities gathered in the United States.

Name calling

Reacting to Lacson's description of him as a "*surot*" (bedbug), Wycoco replied: "A *surot* cannot direct the US Justice Department to manufacture reports."

"I don't resort to name calling. It's his problem. He should blame the US Justice Department," Wycoco said.

"He is into the habit of name calling when he is caught in a corner. What he should do is answer the charges," he said.

"There are also many names that I could call him but we don't do that. We do it the proper way," Wycoco said.

"I am the Director of the NBI. I'm not a member of any organization out to unseat him as senator. We have no plans about that," he added.

Wycoco explained that the NBI had been investigating Lacson since March 2001 after Mary "Rosebud" Ong and the families of kidnapping victims said that members of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force, which Lacson headed, had amassed large amounts of money, not just from kidnapping but also from the illegal drug trade.

"So we requested the help of the FBI and one of the persons we (investigated) is former PNP Chief Panfilo Lacson," he said.

On the non-filing of Lacson's SALNW, Wycoco said that the NBI contacted all the government agencies where SALNWs are supposed to be filed. He said his men did not find Lacson's SALNW for 1995, 1997, 1998 and 2000 and that the NBI got "certifications" attesting to this fact from the Office of the President, the PNP, the Senate and the Ombudsman.

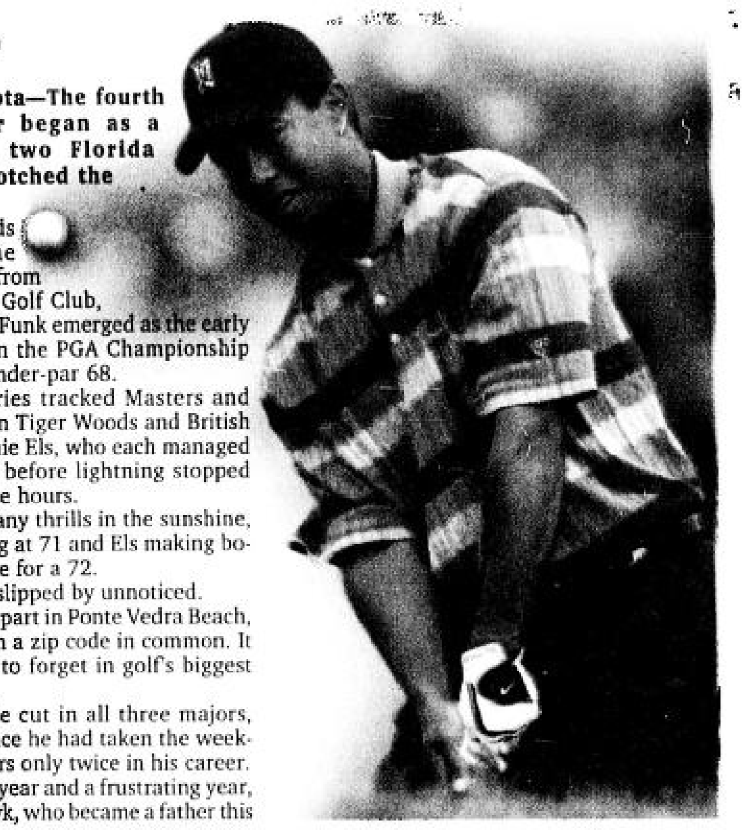
Wycoco added that the NBI also got a certification from the National Statistics Office saying that the senator and Alice Lacson have a marriage certificate.

With this proof of their marriage, Lacson should have also included the assets of his wife in his SALNW, Wycoco said. ***With a report from Cynthia Balana***

WOODS 3 DOWN

Furyk, Funk slip by unnoticed, share lead

By Doug Ferguson



WOODS

CHASKA, Minnesota—The fourth and final major began as a battle between two Florida neighbors who botched the first three.

When brisk winds finally shooed the storm clouds away from Hazeltine National Golf Club, Jim Furyk and Fred Funk emerged as the early leaders Thursday in the PGA Championship with rounds of 4-under-par 68.

Enormous galleries tracked Masters and U.S. Open champion Tiger Woods and British Open champion Ernie Els, who each managed to hit one tee shot before lightning stopped play for nearly three hours.

There weren't many thrills in the sunshine, with Woods opening at 71 and Els making bogey on the final hole for a 72.

Furyk and Funk slipped by unnoticed.

They live a mile apart in Ponte Vedra Beach, and have more than a zip code in common. It has been a season to forget in golf's biggest championships.

Furyk missed the cut in all three majors, unusual for him since he had taken the weekend off at the majors only twice in his career.

"It's been a good year and a frustrating year, all in one," said Furyk, who became a father this summer.

Glorious day

For Funk it was worse. He didn't even qualify for the first three majors.

"I knew I was going to get in one of them," he said with a smile.

Funk certainly made the most of it on what turned out to be a glorious day in Minnesota. Taking only three putts over his final four holes, the former Maryland golf coach shot into a share of the lead, an unfamiliar position for him.

Whether the lead stands will be determined Friday. A storm delay of nearly three hours kept 39 players from finishing the round.

Greg Norman was at 2 under with three holes to play, while Retief Goosen was at the same score with four holes left.

Phil Mickelson, trying to win his first major in 42 starts, had a miserable time at the turn by missing short putts to make bogey and double bogey. He left the course in darkness after a birdie and was 3 over with three to play.

John Daly barely finished, which was the best thing he could say about his round. He took an 11 on the par-4 16th hole by hitting three balls in the water.

Satisfied

"I tried on every shot," Daly said, and the "Wild Thing" certainly kept trying after that. He had a 33 on his second nine for a 77.

Funk chipped in for birdie on No. 15, holed putts of 30 and 20 feet (6 meters) on the next two holes, then saved par with about a 10-foot (3-meter) putt on the last.

Furyk wasn't nearly that dramatic, but he was just as satisfied. Four of his five birdie putts were inside 10 feet (3 meters), the exception coming on No. 6 when he got a good read from Jerry Kelly's putt and made birdie from 25 feet (7.5 meters).

Furyk had a share of the first-round lead in the 1997 British Open and has reason to believe he can pick up his first major here. Eleven of the last 14 winners at the PGA had never won a major.

"I would like to put myself in position the next couple of days, but that history probably isn't going to help me too much," he said.

Justin Rose of England, suddenly a regular contender in majors, had a 69 and was joined by Peter Lonard of Australia.

Davis Love III made double bogey on the 16th and still shot 70, along with Lee Janzen, while Vijay Singh and Minnesota native Tom Lehman joined Woods in the group at 71.

Half of the field was still on the course, including Phil Mickelson and David Duval, and not all of them were going to finish the first round.

It was a bizarre beginning to the final major of the year. Minnesota fans were buzzing by the time Woods, Els and defending champion David Toms arrived on the 10th tee. They took up every inch of space down the fairways, standing 20 rows deep up a slope.

Whack! Whack! Whack!

All three drives found the fairways, and what followed was a sound that startled Woods –the siren to halt play because of a fast-approaching storm.

Everyone could see the black clouds behind them, except for Woods, whose eyes were focused on the 10th fairway and perhaps the American Slam. No one has ever won the three U.S. majors in the same year.

Thick rough

He stiffened and looked back when he heard the horn.

"I didn't know what it was for, and David said there was lightning in the area," Woods said. "I looked back and said, 'Yeah, let's get out of here."

After a long wait, they warmed up quickly.

From a sand-filled divot, Els came up short of the green and then chipped in from 60 feet (18-meters). He added a 10-foot (3-meter) birdie on the next hole, while Woods hit a half-flop from thick rough to 10 inches for birdie on the par-5 11th and joined Els at 2 under with an 8-foot (2.4-meter) birdie on No. 12.

That's as low as either of them got.

Els struggled with club selection in the swirling wind. Woods struggled with his driver. Both are still very much in contention.

"Woods is right there and I heard he didn't play that good," Funk said.

Funk is one of the shortest hitters on tour, a guy known best for his accuracy. He's been known to pick out the stripes left by lawn mowers as his target off the tee. ***AP***

Golf Power today

GOLF POWER today looks back on the Philippine Team's inspiring campaign in the 1996 Putra Cup held in Myanmar. Also featured in the show are golf tips, the regular dose of trivia, definition of golf teams and rules and a profile on junior golfer Jose "Tetu" Santos. Golf Power, now on its seventh year, is aired every Saturday 2 p.m. on RPN-9 and is hosted by golf professional Gerard Cantada. The weekly golf program is produced by Joe Cantada Sports. This week's episode is sponsored by Absolute Pure Distilled Drinking Water.

Intal tops Hong Kong golfest

By Jong Arcano

IAN "Viboy" Intal delivered another victory for the Philippine overseas jungolf competitions by coming from behind to capture the boys 13-14 years division of the Hong Kong McGregor junior golf championships recently.

Intal running third before the final round, staged a mighty comeback to highlight another fruitful campaign for a nine-player delegation from the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines.

Don Padilla (boys 15-17), Mikee Comitoc (boys 11-12) and Debbie de Villa (girls 11-12) also made a good account of themselves by placing fourth in their respective divisions of the tourney that drew entries from seven countries. De Villa had a chance to win her division but collapsed with a 12 in a par-5.

Don Padilla combined with his brother DJ to finish third in the team event.

Others who saw action were power-hitter Eugene Bunyi, Riva Galvez Tan, Mac Arevalo and Angela Erika de Villa.

"It's indeed a banner year for Philippine jungolf and we're really proud of these young boys and girls who have become giants in the international scene," sadi Jungolf chair Amalia Montecillo.

Montecillo together with Jungolf president Merwin Mediana, officials of Philippine Airlines and the Philippine Sports Commission will lead the grand welcome for new sensation Dottie Ardina who is arriving today from the United States.

Ardina took the US jungolf scene by storm after winning both the Junior World in San Diego and US Kids world Championship in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Delasin 3 down; Rosales way off

FIL-AM sensation Dorothy Delasin and Jenny Rosales found themselves going on opposite directions yesterday in the opening round of the LPGA Canadian Women's Open.

Delasin, still looking for her first title this season, bucked her wild driving to shoot four birdies in a round of two-under-par 70 that left her in eighth place just three strokes behind solo leader Kate Golden.

The hot, humid and windy conditions at the 6,435-yard Summerlea Golf and Country Club, built on a bluff near the Ottawa River just outside Montreal, proved too tough for Rosales.

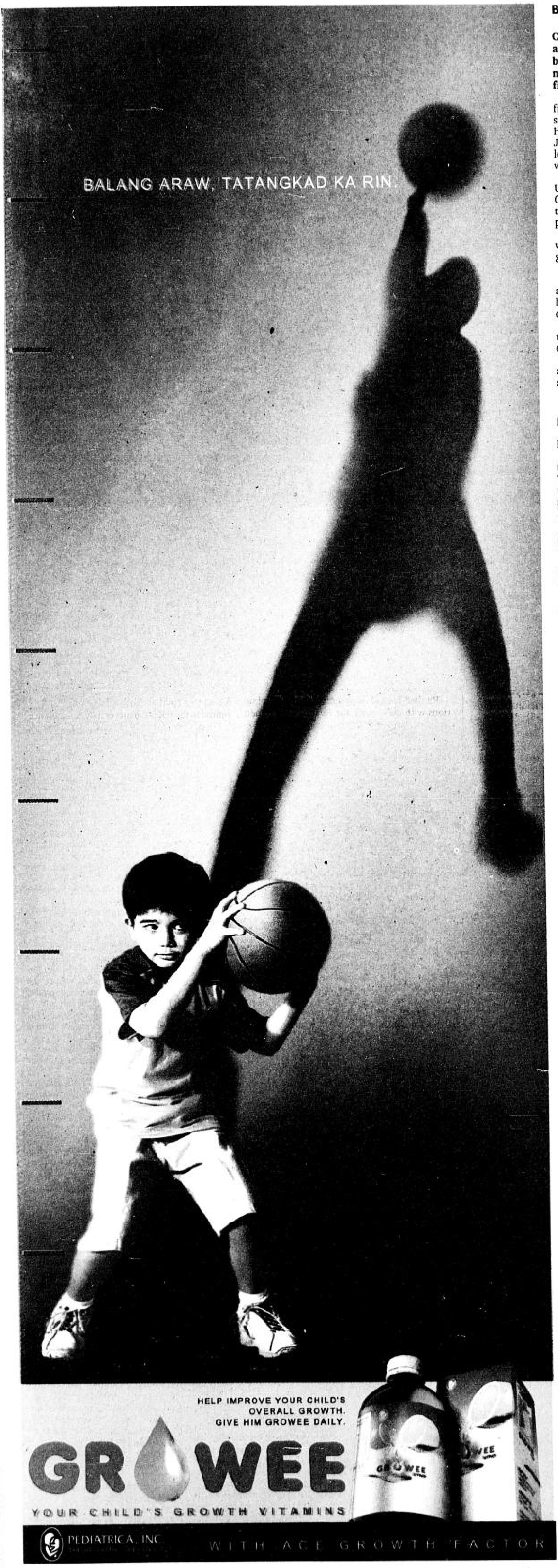
Coming off from a breakthrough win that got away in the British Women's Open last week, Rosales was out of sync, scoring a 75 that put her in danger of missing the cut.

She was in a large group tied for 67th spot.

Rosales, who had zoomed to No. 25 after the Scotland trip, was even par through 10 holes but double-bogeyed the 12th and bogeyed the 13th.

Only 21 players bettered par and Karrie Webb, the Women's British Open winner on Sunday at Turnberry, Scotland, wasn't among them. She was pleased with her 72.

The tough field included 16 of the Top 20 money winners on tour this year. Money list leader Annika Sorenstam skipped the event in favor of the Swedish Women's Open. ***Jong Arcano***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Mapua vents ire on JRU squad, 81-74

By June Navarro

GAMES MONDAY (Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
11:30 a.m.—Letran vs SSC (jrs/srs)
4 p.m.—San Beda vs JRU (jrs/srs)

Standings	W	L
CSB	9	1
SSC	7	2
PCU	7	3
JRU	5	4
Letran	4	5
Mapua	4	6
San Beda	1	8
UPHR	1	9

EDSEL Feliciano relieved Mapua from a string of setbacks on and off the court as the 6-foot-3 power forward led the Cardinals to a pulsating 81-74 win over the Jose Rizal University Heavy Bombers yesterday in the NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Feliciano banged in nine of his 26 points in the fourth quarter, including a three-point play in the dying seconds as the Cardinals went on to break a three-game slide and improve their record to 4-6.

It somehow gave the Cardinals a sigh of relief after missing the services of some key players—Raymond Dula and Ryan Malig—due to injuries and losing ace playmaker Jeffrey Martin for the remainder of the season.

Martin got the ire of the NCAA management committee and was banned for instigating two bench-emptying incidents against the College of St. Benilde.

First game (seniors)

SSC 84—Falcasantos 15, Baluyot 12, Uy 9, Alfad 9, Najorda 9, Moore 8, Vicente 6, Reguerra 6, Legarde 5, Nadela 4, Gonzales 1, Santos 0, De Leon 0, Coronel 0.

UPHR 74—Cuenco 18, Ali-ali 13, Balboa 13, Tayer 11, Botin 9, Hawkins 4, Aseron 2, Javier 2, Cosme 1, Faundo 0, Mulat 0.

Quarters: 23-14, 49-32, 71-44, 84-74

Second game (seniors)

MAPUA 81—Feliciano 26, Guevarra 16, Sta. Maria 12, Cruz 12, Gonzales 8, Bangoy 4, Salud 2, Lagar 1, David 0.

JRU 74—Finuliar 23, Te 15, Fajardo 15, Attunaga 13, Santos 4, Villarin 3 Borboran 1.

Quarters: 22-19, 40-33, 60-50, 81-74

Osaka-M. Lhuillier champ via a sweep

CANTILAN, Surigao City—Osaka-M. Lhuillier completed a sweep via a 106-89 thrashing of Carrascal to bag the Cebu Basketball League (CBL) Cantilan Fiesta Challenge Cup at the Town Gymnasium here.

High-flyer Junnel Maglasang topscored anew for Osaka with his 26 points but it was Michael Almonte's hot hands that made the difference in the game held before a large crowd that included Cantilan Mayor Thomasa Guardo.

Almonte fired three of his five triples in the third quarter where Osaka pegged its biggest lead at 77-55. Almonte's 20 points backed Maglasang's offensive effort along with Jun delos Santos with 17, John Sampelo 11 and Darryl Smith 10.

The 6-8 Smith, a former PBA import who has made Cebu his permanent residence, provided the muscle in Osaka's wall-like defense, logging four shotblocks and putting several Carrascal attempts way off the basket.

In the other game, Surigao City took third place following a close 68-64 decision over host Cantilan.

Due to the success of the tourney, Guardo is now contemplating on hosting cage events of national stature.

"I look forward to hosting more high-quality games in the future. Basketball is one way of making our Cantilan a drug-free town in Mindanao."

Red Bull player cleared of rape raps

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE RAPE and acts of lasciviousness charges levelled by a part-time contributor of dzBB (Radyo ng Bayan) against Red Bull forward Davonn Maurice Harp was recommended for dismissal at the Department of Justice for insufficient evidence.

State Prosecutor Mary Josephine P. Lazaro recommended the dismissal, saying that Harp did not rape the victim. "What transpired between them, if any, was not a forced sexual intercourse but a consensual one," said Lazaro in a resolution approved yesterday by Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño.

The victim (Maylene Juarez Duran) claimed that she was first raped on Sept. 21, 2001 by Harp at Unit 1605, 16th floor of the Platinum 2000 Condominium located on Annapolis Street in San Juan.

PBA not forgetting plight of retired cagers—Jun B

ENCOURAGING COMEBACK
Martina Hingis fires a shot en route to a 6-4, 6-2 victory over Clarisa Fernandez yesterday in the Rogers AT&T Cup in Montreal, Canada. It was the second victory for the former world No. 1 from Switzerland at the $ 1.224-million hardcourt event, her first tournament since returning from surgery in May to repair damaged ligaments in her left ankle. In Indianapolis, British hope Greg Rusedski upset top-ranked Australian Lleyton Hewitt, 7-6 (3), 6-4, in the third round of the RCA Championships. In Washington, defending champion and second-seeded American Andy Roddick was knocked out in the third round of the Legg Mason Tennis Classic by Fernando Meligeni of Brazil, 6-4, 6-4. AP

By Dennis U. Eroa

BERNARDINO

COMMISSIONER Jun Bernardino of the Philippine Basketball Association yesterday said the PBA has not stopped looking for ways and means to further enhance the welfare of retired PBA players.

"Aside from those already in place, the PBA isn't forgetting the plight of its retired players. I can assure you that the competing teams are trying to improve what's already in place," Bernardino told the INQUIRER.

Bernardino's reaction was sought by the INQUIRER after Sen. Robert Jaworski called on the PBA to do some more to uplift the lot of retired PBA players not fortunate enough to save something for "the rainy days."

Jaworski also asked the league to extend some more to cagers who are ailing and are short of funds for their medical needs.

Dubbed as the Living Legend of Philippine basketball, Jaworski said the PBA owes its success to dedicated players.

Said Jaworski: "The league should make sure that present and future players will get something in return for their families once they decide to hang their jerseys."

GMA-7 showed on Monday the sad plight of Teddy Alfarero and Alex Clariño. Clariño was Jaworski's teammate at Toyota and Gilbey's Gin from the '70s to the '80s.

Alfarero is virtually down in the pits after working as a tricycle and jeepney driver.

The practically bedridden Clariño, one of the toughest players the league has ever produced, is suffering from cancer.

"The league has been using a trust fund for the giving of free education to dependents of former PBA players," said Bernardino.

He said free education is given to a retired cager's child based on the number of the player's playing years in the league.

Aside from the scholarships, Bernardino said the PBA is also giving assistance to them, "like holding seminars on livelihood and the best ways to handle money matters.

"Not only the pros, but regular employes must save for the rainy days, so to speak," Bernardino said. " There are downturns in the life of a pro. One must be prepared financially and emotionally when the time to quit comes."

Bernardino said he fully understands Jaworski's concern for his fellow players.

"The PBA has the moral obligation to look after the welfare of the players at the end of their career," Jaworski told the INQUIRER in an earlier interview. "Provisions for retirement, educational and financial benefits and other assistance packages must be included in the players contract."

A former La Salle player,Alfarero, who saw action for bemedalled Northern Consolidated, Great Taste Coffee and Alaska in the PBA, is now jobless and unable to feed his family due to his asthma.

Clariño, a defensive specialist who was feared for his brutal style during his heydays, subsist mainly from friend's doleouts.

GMA-7 reported yesterday that many La Salle alumni have already promised a livelihood program for the Alfarero family.

Jaworski and Parañaque City Mayor Joey Marquez gave yesterday some financial support to Clariño, their former teammate at Ginebra/Gilbey's Gin in the '80s.

Sta. Lucia, Alaska play crucial tiffs

GAMES TODAY (Ynares Center)
3:45 p.m.—Talk N Text vs Sta. Lucia
5:45 p.m.—Alaska vs FedEx

STA. LUCIA Realty and Alaska grapple for semifinal seats when they go up against lower-seeded teams today in the quarterfinals of the PBA Samsung Commissioner's Cup at the Ynares Center.

Ranked second after finishing the eliminations with a 7-3 card, the Realtors stake their twice-to-beat advantage against the Talk N Text Phone Pals, who secured the No. 7 seeding after shocking Alaska, 80-76, at the close of the regular wars on Sunday.

Still, the Aces earned the third slot in the quarters and will use that edge against the sixth-ranked FedEx Express in the other featured game.

The Phone Pals beat the Realtors during the elims, 83-71, but that seemed ages ago since at that time, the Realtors were still searching for the right import combination.

With Stephen Howard and Chris Clay now forming a perfect brew, the Realtors have won six of their last seven games punctuated by a 74-65 win over San Miguel Beer last week.

Moreover, the Realtors have never been forced to a sudden-death affair and always advanced to the semis whenever they enjoy a twice-to-beat edge. This is Sta. Lucia's fourth straight quarterfinal stint, two of them in the Top 4.

Since its adoption in 1999, the Phone Pals have always made it to the quarters but clinched a slot in the semis only once in 10 tries—in the 2000 Governors Cup when they were the top seed. *June Navarro*

Adamson upbeat in upsetting La Salle

TRILLO

By Dennis U. Eroa

STANDINGS	W	L
La Salle	7	0
UE	5	2
Ateneo	4	3
UST	4	3
UP	3	4
Adamson	3	4
FEU	2	5
NU	0	7

GAMES TODAY
(Makati Coliseum)
2 p.m.—AdU vs La Salle
4 p.m.—UP vs UE

ADAMSON'S youthful mentor Luigi Trillo said yesterday La Salle can be beaten. Problem is, he didn't exactly say how he would do it.

Trillo, who played the point for the Green Archers from 1993 to 1997, has become a celebrity at the San Marcelino-based school after the Falcons have become "overachievers " with their 3-4 card in the first round of the UAAP basketball tournament.

But for Adamson to be seriously considered a Final Four candidate, it must earn the honor of becoming the first team to beat La Salle this season.

The Archers are unbeaten in the eight-team league.

The Adamson-La Salle tiff is set at 2 p.m., followed by the 4 p.m. encounter between University of the Philippines and University of the East at the Makati Coliseum.

"We're a fully rested team. We've scouted La Salle well. Now, if we'll continue helping each other then we'll have a chance," said Trillo."This is about team effort."

Trillo's wards bowed to the Archers, 74-67, in the first round.

In that game, Adamson was in contention in the first 20 minutes but crumbled when La Salle uncorked its feared pressing game in the third period.

"The press killed us. We we'rent ready for that," said Trillo.

Mark Abadia, Ramil Tagupa, Melvin Mamaclay, Edilberto Mangulabnan, Jojo Hate and Christian Ferrer will lead Adamson's attack.

La Salle has been ripping the league apart with its display of maturity. The Green Archers, who are determined to achieve the "five-peat," are playing like one solid unit.

Like a Formula One car, La Salle is leaving the opposition behind with its ability to force turnovers against the opposition.

Coach Franz Pumaren said the Archers are not yet assured of a Final Four stint.

"This isn't the time to relax. Just like the others, we are chasing the twice-to-beat edge in the semis. We have to keep our momentum going," Pumaren said.

Mark Cardona, Mike Cortez, Carlo Sharma, Willy Wilson, Adonis Sta. Maria and Joseph Yeo are taking charge for La Salle. Cortez has the penchant for delivering the killing blows, while Cardona is not only deadly with his unorthodox shots but is a no-nonsense defender, too.

La Salle's deep bench is also proving crucial. Tyrone Tang, Junjun Cabatu and Cholo Villanueva have been giving quality minutes.

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

MOTOR SPORTS: 2002 F1 Hungarian Grand Prix Qualifying at 7 p.m. on Star Sports

GOLF: Senior PGA Ford Senior Players Championship, First Round at 8:30 a.m. (r), Second Round at 4 p.m. (r – 8:30 p.m.) on Star Sports

LPGA Wendy's Championship for Children, Final Round at 10 a.m. on ESPN

WNCAA's Lyceum, Assumption see action

GAMES TODAY (SSC gym)
8 a.m.—Angelicum vs MC (HS)
9:30 a.m.—SSC vs SSHS (HS)
11 a.m.—CSB vs RTU (Col.)
12:30 p.m.—UA vs AC (Col.)
2 p.m.—Lyceum vs EAC (Col.)
3:30 p.m.—Siena vs SSC (Col.)

UNBEATEN teams Lyceum of the Philippines and University of the Assumption-Pampanga part ways today when they clash at noontime in the 33rd WNCAA-adidas volleyball tournament at the Lyceum gym.

The defending champion Lyceum Lady Pirates and last year's runners-up UA Blue Pelicans have so far downed three squads each to lead the 10-team field.

Both schools won in three sets on Sunday—Lyceum over Miriam College and UA against Rizal Technological University, for their third victory in as many games.

Other college matches will pit College of St. Benilde (1-1) versus Emilio Aguinaldo College (0-2) at 1:30 p.m. host Assumption College (1-2) against RTU (1-2) at 3 p.m. and St. Scholastica's College (1-2) versus Miriam College (1-2) at 4:30 p.m.

Meanwhile, RPN-9 will air from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. today the 33rd WNCAA-adidas opening ceremonies, held last Aug. 3 at the Philsports Arena.

The 33rd WNCAA-adidas is being supported by RPN-9, dwRX 93.1, Don Henrico's Pizza, Avon, Elle, official marketing group Tactical Xperts Corporation and official balls Mikasa and Molten.

UBIX-Riviera Pro-Am slated Nov. 20-23 at Couples

By Jong Arcano

PREPARATIONS are under way for the 2002 UBIX-Riviera National Pro-Am championship, with its main patron Bert Bravo reaffirming his continued support on Thursday to one of the country's oldest events.

The one-ball twosome will be held on Nov. 20-23 at Riviera's Couples in Silang, Cavite.

Declaring that it's wise to give Riviera the tag as the new "home of the pro-am, "Bravo assured organizers that prize money befitting the prestige of the tourney will be put up principally by his sponsoring company UBIX Corporation.

Bravo's generosity has given local pros at least one big tournament to look forward to each year, especially after major companies hit by the economic slowdown have decided to stay away from the sports scene.

The excitement of last year's close win by Noli Kempis and his young partner Erwin Vinluan over the father-and-son tandem of Juanito and Juvic Pagunsan should paint an interesting scenario for this year's championship.

A change in the format is expected to toughen up the competition with a cut-off after three rounds. Only the Top 40 teams after 54 holes will play the final round.

Also, the Top 30 pros based on the organizing committee's ranking are restricted from teaming up with amateurs with handicap indexes of 5 or below.

BRAVO

Commodore Danny Pizarro, president of Riviera, has designated Eric Gozo as the tournament director.

The National Golf Association of the Philippines will be the chief organizer, with Riviera's John Blanch and Lewis Rissman again taking crucial roles to ensure another smashing success.

The tournament fee is P5,000 per team.

Riviera is also set to stage its inaugural amateur championship next month.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1992, Robert Angelo beat Joseph Lizardo, 5-7, 6-0, 6-4, 6-1, to bag the 1992 PCA Open tennis championship at the PCA courts in Paco. Also today in 1995, Efren "Bata" Reyes defeated Jeff Carter, 8-3, to win the World 8-Ball Championship in Las Vegas, Nevada.

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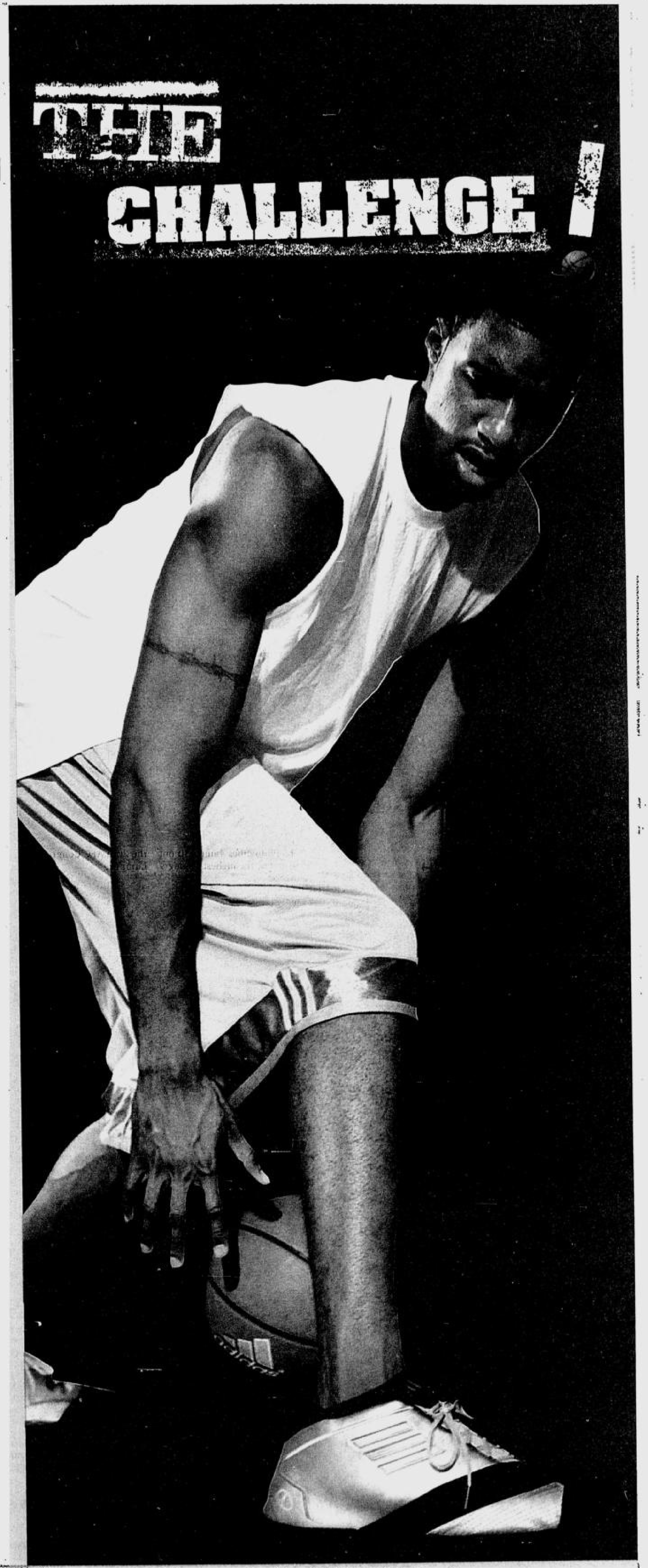
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Philta slates 2 tournaments

THE PHILIPPINE Tennis Association will hold the Philta Classic IV from Aug. 24-25 and Aug. 30-Sept. 1 at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. Events on tap are boys' and girls' 18-under, 16-under, 14-under, 12-under and unisex 10-under. Deadline of entry is on Aug. 22 at 12 noon. Entry fee is P200 per event.

SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ◉ *Assistant Editor* **Edwin M. Villanueva**

FOUR DIGIT
Luzon 1 9 0 2
(In exact order)
Vis / Min 5 7 8 4

MEGALOTTO 6/45
2 7 30 38 41 45

SUERTRES 1 2 7

DJANGO MORAL SUPPORT

Bata wins again, earns ₱2.5M

BATA Reyes strikes again.

With his best friend Django Bustamante giving him support from ringside, Reyes unearthed his magic once more yesterday to win the 2002 International Challenge of Champions 9-Ball Classic in Connecticut, USA.

"*Buenas lang* (I was just lucky)," said the ever humble Reyes after defeating the eminent Mika Immonen of Finland in the finals.

Reyes told his mentors Popit and Putch Puyat by overseas telephone: "*May kaba din ako dahil maganda ang tira ngayon ni* Immonen (I was a bit nervous as Immonen is playing well these days). Lucky *lang tayo*."

The victory was worth $50,000 (roughly P2.5 million) for Reyes, the 1999 world champion in Cardiff, Wales, but equally important is the fact that it came barely a week after Bustamante's victory in the Peninsula 9-Ball Open in Virginia, USA.

It also marked the first time that two Filipinos scored back-to-back victories in two weeks in the tough international billiards circuit in America.

To put drama to his victory, Reyes carved the win via a one-rack, sudden death in a duel described as "a nerve-tingling classic" by some spectators at the jampacked Mohegan Sun Casino.

It was a big rebound for Reyes, who placed fifth in the Virginia event topped by Bustamante, who elected to stay behind to extend moral support to his long-time buddy.

Before forging the finals against Immonen, Reyes beat Hsiao-lang Fang of Chinese Taipei, 5-4, in the semifinals.

Immonen defeated Steve Knight of England to set up the finals between the two former world pool (Cardiff) champions.

The finals duel was held under a unique format—best-of-3, race-to-5's.

Bustamante said Bata snatched the win after a masterful pouncing on Immonen's miscue.

In the sudden death, Immonen won the lag and pocketed two balls with his break which scattered the rest of the balls.

But after pocketing 1, 2 and 3, Immonen "hooked" himself. With his cue ball situated in a difficult spot, he failed to pocket the 4 ball.

Immediately, Reyes went to work in clockwork precision and cleaned up the table to win the championship.

Reyes and Bustamante will fly to Nevada to compete in the Las Vegas International 9-Ball tournament on Aug. 18-23.

From there, they return to Manila to wait for their departure for Busan, Korea.

They are both skipping the US Open 9-ball Championship in the United States next month to join the RP delegation on Sept. 25 or thereabouts to the Busan Games on Sept. 29 to Oct. 14. ***ASM, with a report from Mario H. Roxas***

FILE PHOTO

BATA Reyes duplicates Django Bustamante's victory in the US.

RP voted execom member

THE PHILIPPINES, represented by football president Rene Z. Adad, was recently elected to the Executive Committee of the Asian Football Confederation.

The Philippines gained 30 out of 41 votes, the highest among 9 nations which made it to the AFC ExCom.

Also elected to the ExCom were Iran, Iraq, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Nepal, India, Uzbekistan and Oman.

"This is a big honor for the Philippines," said Adad upon his arrival yesterday.

Thailand's Worawi Makudi and Japan's Junji Ogura were re-elected as AFC representatives on the Fifa Executive Committee during the polls held at the 20th AFC Congress in Kuala Lumpur.

Worawi and Ogura each garnered 25 votes to edge out Yousef Al Serkal of the United Arab Emirates, who had 23 votes.

Worawi has served on the Fifa Executive Committee since 1997 while Ogura has been elected to the position for the first time.

Buhain hails Pagcor help for Asiad bets

THE PHILIPPINE Gaming Corporation's (Pagcor) commitment to support the country's bid to the 14th Asian Games was hailed anew yesterday by Chair Eric Buhain of the Philippine Sports Commission.

"The Pagcor, under the leadership of chair Ephraim Genuino, has been with us from the start in our preparation for the Asian Games," said Buhain.

The sports agency runs on a budget fed by two sources—the Congress-approved general appropriation which basically goes to administrative expenses, and the national sports development fund (NSDF) which consists of the PSC's shares from the government-run casinos.

"We could hardly move with the budget from the GAA because this falls almost entirely under the administrative expenses," said Buhain.

Government has spent about P100 million in the training and preparation for Busan. This includes foreign exposure for athletes as well as sports medicine, "which are vital in nurturing athletes to world-class standards."

Genuino, said Buhain, is thinking of ways to increase Pagcor's revenue in an effort to boost remittances from the body to support Philippine sports, especially as the Busan Asiad draws closer.

"We have barely six weeks before the Asian Games and at this point, what is vital in the training and preparation of our athletes are their competition equipment, most of which are imported from abroad. And this is where Pagcor's assistance comes in extra handy," he said.

The country will participate in 31 of the 38 disciplines in the Asiad on Sept. 29 to Oct. 14.

SPORTSWATCH

Rubio tops MP Turbo speedfest

INTELCO'S Archie Rubio ruled the premier Open and KT categories in the recent MP Turbo Speedfest at the Subic Lemans Kart Track inside the Subic Freeport. Other winners were Pampanga's Ampok Jimenez and BJ Lagman, who triumphed in the Novice A and Novice B classes, respectively. More than 50 entries saw action in the event sponsored by ZED, Gulf Lubricants, San Mig, Dickies racing shirts and the BLTB Co. SBMA under the leadership of Felicito Payumo also helped in making the event successful. Automobile Association of the Philippines, FIA's representative to the Philippines, sanctioned the event. "It was a very exciting race," said Rubio.

PSA to support Boystown project

BOYSTOWN'S dream of building a sports academy may soon come true as the Philippine Sportswriters Association extends a helping hand by sponsoring Columbia Pictures Triple XXX premier night set on Monday at the Robinson's Place in Ermita. The PSA will donate a portion of the proceeds of the screening to Boystown, a sprawling place located in Marikina which is being touted as future training ground of national athletes. Other sponsors are Pagcor, PCSO, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, Samsung, Hermie Esguerra, Red Bull, Patafa, PSC, POC, PBA, PBL, San Miguel Beer and Selecta. Other beneficiaries are the Sisters of Mary, Athletes and Coaches Association of the Philippines and the Philippine Amateur Athletes Federation Inc.

Davao City hosts nat'l triathlon

FORTY-FIVE triathletes, led by Ian Gerard Rusiana of Dumaguete City and Cebu's Ripples Rafanan, will lead a crack field in the Enervon National Age-group triathlon event set this Sunday in Davao City. Sponsored by Speedo, Enervon, Fil-Chinese Firefighters Foundation, Traffic bureau and the Philippine Sports Commission, the event will start at the Sta. Ana Wharf and will finish at the Hospital Avenue. Triathletes from Cagayan de Oro, Bacolod City, Bohol and Zamboanga will see action in the event. Ruffy Gapuz, consumer health division supervisor of United Laboratories, and Councilor Nilo Abellera will grace the competition.

Selecta-RP meets Chinese-Taipei

FILIPINOS will be able to savor the Asian Games experience as the Busan-bound Selecta-RP national team meets Chinese-Taipei on Aug. 20 and Aug. 22. The PBA and the Basketball Association of the Philippines decided to hold the tuneup matches in order to allow the fans to witness the nationals in action. "This is our way of helping out the national team prepare for the Asiad," said PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino. Araneta Coliseum hosts the Aug. 20 match, while the Aug.22 tiff will be held at the Ynares Center. Fans can avail of the P5 tickets to the upper B section of the Araneta and bleachers. They can also exchange proof of purchase of any product of any PBA member to be able to get tickets. "We are going to play a team with vast international exposure. I think these matches will benefit our team." Uichico said he is also looking forward to the PBA-Australia series being hatched by the PBA.

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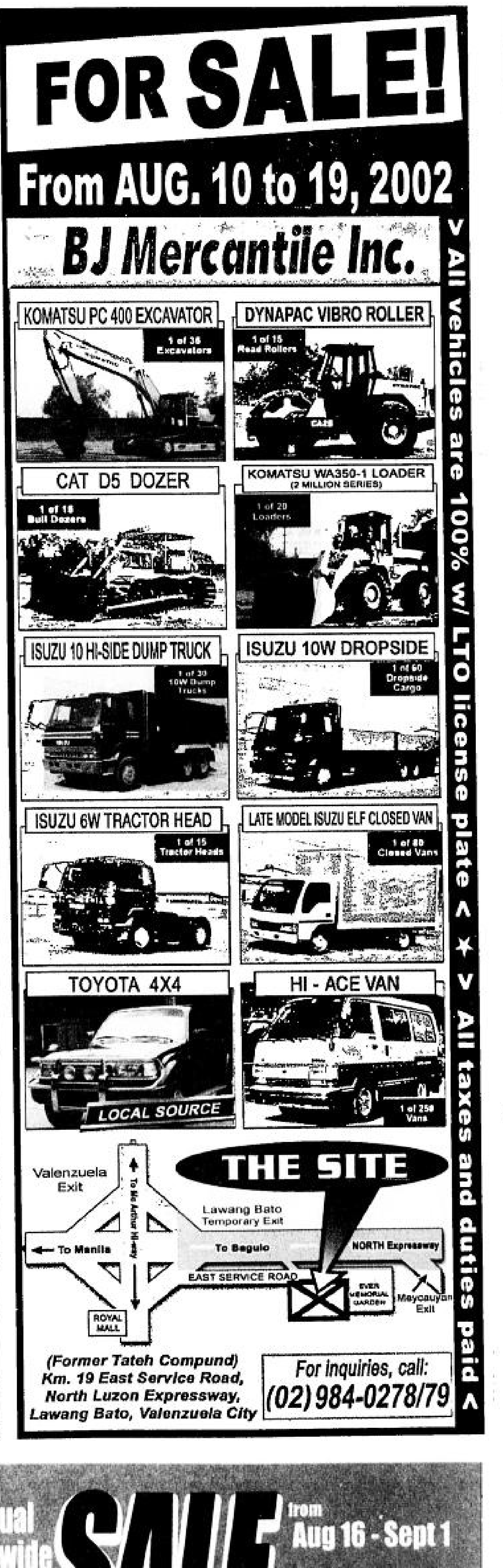
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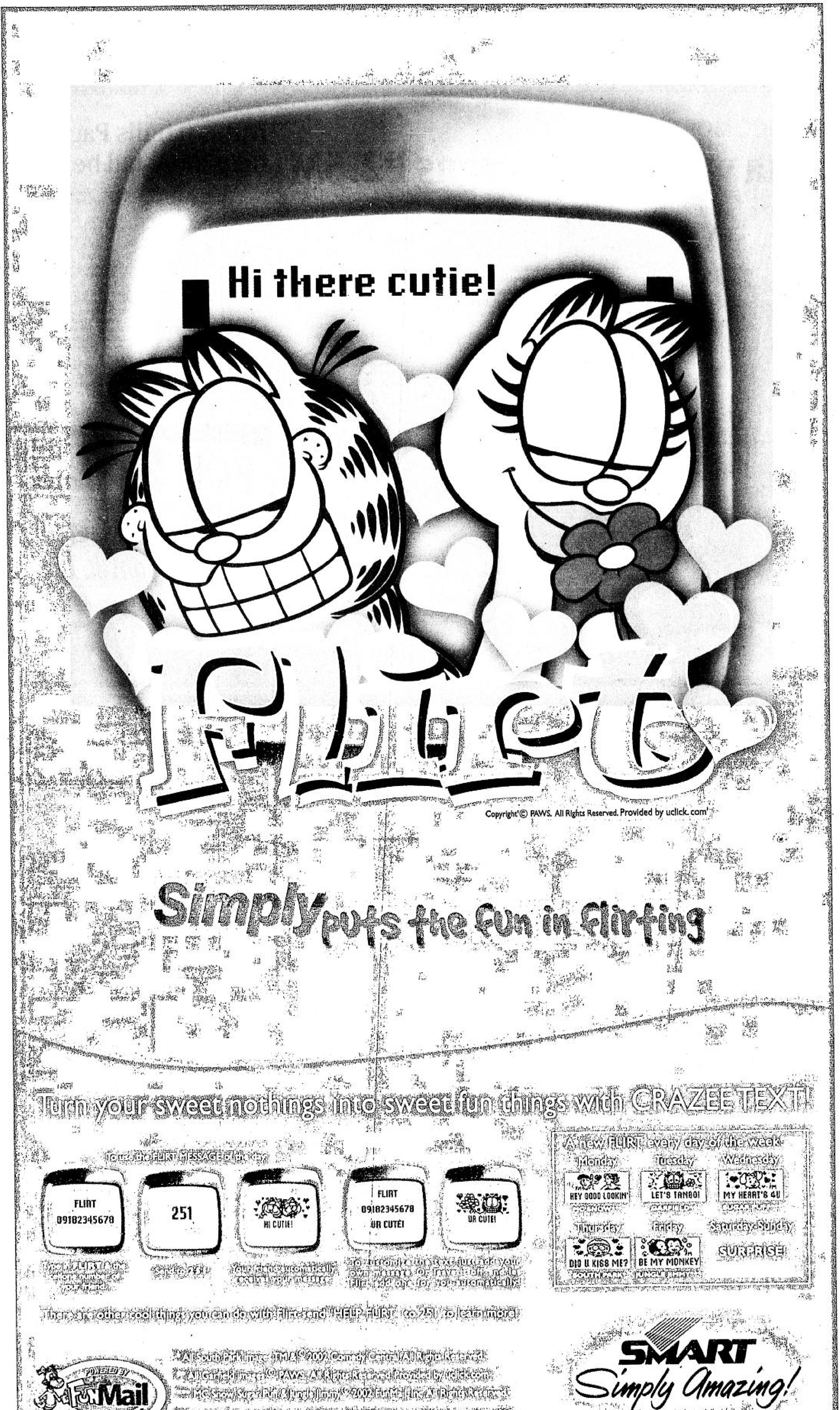

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METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

ATIENZA

Piggery covered smell of gunpowder /A27

'Magic Eye' catches 4 'kotong' officers /A27

Atienza sued over oil depot

By Volt Contreras and Jerome Aning

A GRAFT complaint was filed yesterday against Manila Mayor Lito Atienza over the continuing presence of the controversial Pandacan oil depot despite the passage of a city ordinance ordering its removal.

Councilor Benjamin Asilo asked the Ombudsman to investigate Atienza's failure to implement Manila Ordinance No. 8027, which was passed on Nov. 28, 2001.

The ordinance supposedly gave oil giants Petron, Shell and Caltex up to June 28 this year to cease operation in the controversial facility.

Atienza "welcomes" Asilo's complaint, according to city legal officer Melchor Monsod.

Monsod pointed out that the suit was "obviously...political motivated."

He said Atienza "deserves a commendation, not condemnation."

In a complaint affidavit, the councilor from

ATIENZA/ p. A27

'Desperate' vendors face arrest

By Leila B. Salaverria

FERNANDO

REALLY DESPERATE.

That was how Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando yesterday described the vendors who threatened to peddle their goods in front of the MMDA in Makati to protest the agency's sidewalk clearing campaign.

Fernando also warned the vendors that they could face arrest.

"They're really desperate," Fernando said in Filipino. "They're going against not just the MMDA but also against the whole of Metro Manila."

He said that if vendors would do as they threatened, that would be a "flagrant violation" of the law.

"We would be prepared to arrest them," he said in a phone interview. "They must make sure they have a permit when they hold a rally."

Vendors and members of urban poor groups on Thursday held a rally in front of the MMDA on Edsa and burned a swastika banner to protest what they called Fernando's "Hitler-like" implementation of his sidewalk clearing operations, where MMDA personnel would throw away or destroy the vendors' wares.

Fernando had also threatened to spray kerosene on the goods so the vendors would not be able to re-sell them, which also drew flak.

In an earlier interview, the MMDA chair said he had expressly directed his personnel to destroy confiscated goods lest they be accused of taking an interest in the goods. He said the MMDA gives enough warning to the vendors before destroying their wares.

DESPERATE/ p. A29

WAZZZZUP ?
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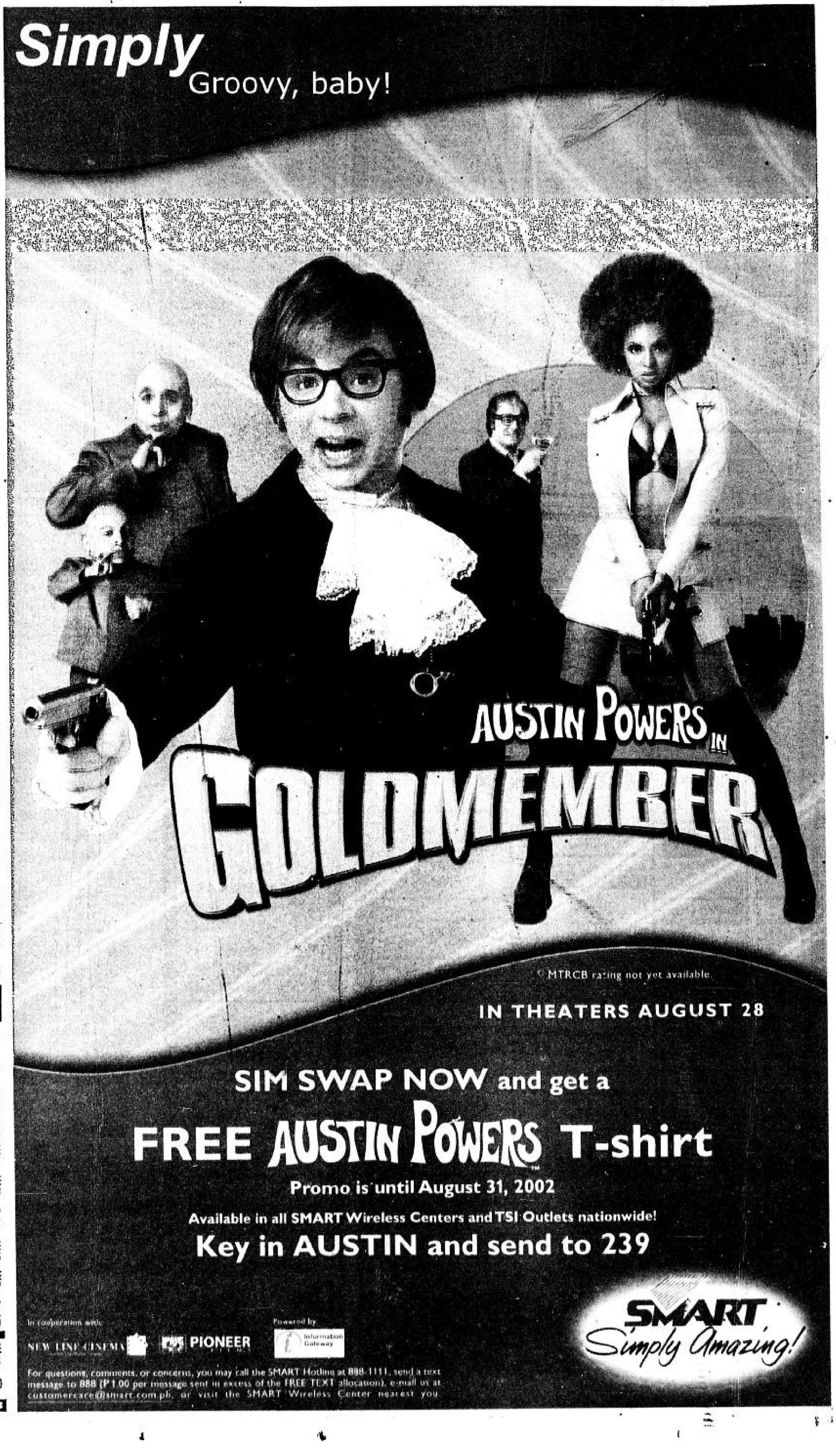

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	[illegible]	CENTRAL STATION
	[illegible] FAST FOOD, FAST WOMEN	WHAT TIME IS IT THERE?
	[illegible] DOG DAYS	ATANARJUAT
	10:30 NO MAN'S LAND	SEAFOOD
Aug. 18 (Sun.)	10:30 BASHU, THE LITTLE STRANGER	FOLLOWING
	1:30 ONCE UPON A TIME IN CHINA	FRIEND
	3:30 A CITY OF SADNESS	EATING AIR
	6:30 ATANARJUAT	WHAT TIME IS IT THERE?
	8:30 CENTRAL STATION	A PORNOGRAPHIC AFFAIR
	10:30 HOLLYWOOD HONG KONG	QUITTING
Aug. 19 (Mon.)	10:30 WATERBOYS	BASHU, THE LITTLE STRANGER
	1:30 EATING AIR	THE GIRL FROM PARIS
	3:30 DOG DAYS	FRIEND
	6:30 FAST FOOD, FAST WOMEN	SEAFOOD
	8:30 69	NO MAN'S LAND
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3
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7 (DTS) UNFAITHFUL
8 GALING-GALING MO
9 SAGAD

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2 SORORITY BOYS
3 (DOLBY) WINDTALKERS
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3

Cabuyao

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1 RESERVE

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(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

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2 D' URAGONS
3 SAGAD

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3 MEGIDDO
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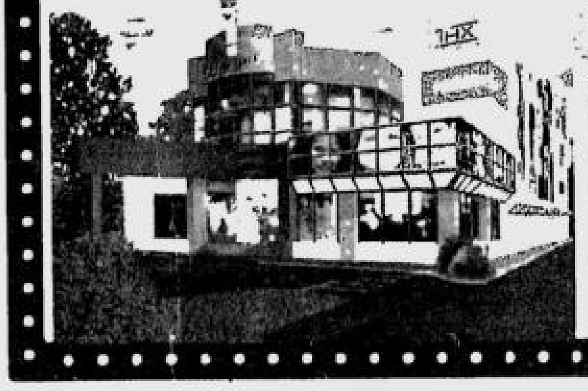

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7 BIGLANG LIKO
8 KILLING ME SOFTLY

SM CENTERPOINT

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1 UNFAITHFUL
2 KILLING ME SOFTLY
3 LILO & STITCH
4 SWEETEST THING
5 ANG GALING GALING MO
6 D' URAGONS
7 8 LEGGED FREAKS
8 WINDTALKERS
9 BIGLANG LIKO
10 STUART LITTLE 2

SM CITY FAIRVIEW

9350749

1 MAPUPULANG ROSAS
2 ORANGE COUNTY
3 STUART LITTLE 2
4 LILO & STITCH
5 KILLING ME SOFTLY
6 D' URAGONS
7 SWEETEST THING
8 UNFAITHFUL
9 WINDTALKERS
10 8 LEGGED FREAKS
11 ANG GALING GALING MO
12 BIGLANG LIKO

SM CITY MANILA

5239240

1 LILO & STITCH
2 ABOUT A BOY
3 8 LEGGED FREAKS
4 SWEETEST THING
5 UNFAITHFUL
6 WINDTALKERS
7 KILLING ME SOFTLY
8 BIGLANG LIKO
9 D' URAGONS
10 STUART LITTLE 2
11 MEGIDDO
12 ORANGE COUNTY

SM MEGAMALL

6331901 • 6320401

1 ABOUT A BOY
2 KILLING ME SOFTLY
3 LILO & STITCH
4 UNFAITHFUL
5 SWEETEST THING
6 ORANGE COUNTY
7 ANG GALING GALING...
8 8 LEGGED FREAKS
9 D' URAGONS
10 WINDTALKERS
11 STUART LITTLE 2
12 BIGLANG LIKO

SM CITY NORTH EDSA

9295452

1 8 LEGGED FREAKS
2 KILLING ME SOFTLY
3 ORANGE COUNTY
4 BIGLANG LIKO
5 UNFAITHFUL
6 SWEETEST THING
7 WINDTALKERS
8 LILO & STITCH

SM SOUTHMALL

8068888

1 ORANGE COUNTY
2 KILLING ME SOFTLY
3 LILO & STITCH
4 SWEETEST THING
5 ABOUT A BOY
6 D' URAGONS
7 UNFAITHFUL
8 8 LEGGED FREAKS
9 WINDTALKERS
10 BIGLANG LIKO

SM CITY CEBU

2313876

1 WINDTALKERS
2 LILO & STITCH
3 ABOUT A BOY
4 UNFAITHFUL
5 SORORITY BOYS
6 MEGIDDO
7 SAGAD
8 8 LEGGED FREAKS

SM CITY ILOILO

3209422

1 HIGH CRIMES
2 CLOSED
3 ANG GALING GALING...
4 8 LEGGED FREAKS
5 SORORITY BOYS
6 LILO & STITCH
7 CLOSED
8 MEGIDDO

SM CITY PAMPANGA

7128015

1 8 LEGGED FREAKS
2 SWEETEST THING
3 MEGIDDO
4 BIGLANG LIKO
5 UNFAITHFUL
6 LILO & STITCH

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT

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1 BIGLANG LIKO
2 UNFAITHFUL
3 LILO & STITCH
4 D' URAGONS

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN

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1 UNFAITHFUL
2 BIGLANG LIKO
3 LILO & STITCH
4 D' URAGONS

SM CITY DAVAO

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1 HIGH CRIMES
2 ABOUT A BOY
3 8 LEGGED FREAKS
4 ANG GALING GALING...
5 WINDTALKERS
6 LILO & STITCH

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10:25 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:25 END

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8 KILLING ME SOFTLY
9 ABOUT A BOY
10 STUART LITTLE 2

Ermita

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1 UNFAITHFUL
2 ORANGE COUNTY
3 EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
4 THE SWEETEST THING
5 BIGLANG LIKO
6 LILO & STITCH
7 KILLING ME SOFTLY

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4 LILO & STITCH
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7 WINDTALKERS
8 BIGLANG LIKO

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2 LILO & STITCH
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6 EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
7 UNFAITHFUL
8 WINDTALKERS

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2 LILO & STITCH
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4 THE SWEETEST THING
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6 KILLING ME SOFTLY

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4 DOG SOLDIERS
5 STUART LITTLE 2
6 EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS

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2 MEGIDDO
3 HIGH CRIMES
4 EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
5 LILO & STITCH
6 ANG GALING 2 MO BABES

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Injured amok falls to death

CONSTANCIO Danuco allegedly committed suicide in a Quezon City hospital, hours after a doctor shot him Thursday.

Police said Danuco, 43, a stay-in driver of New Manila, Quezon City, jumped out of a window on the second floor of the Quezon City General Hospital at 9:50 p.m. PO1 Romel Merino said Danuco was taken to the hospital after Dr. Rizalino Pelarca shot him Thursday morning in a gas station on West Avenue. *Alcuin Papa*

Piggery covered smell of gunpowder

By Tina Santos

NEIGHBORS of Oliva and Domingo Torrechiva in Bagong Silang, Caloocan City did not realize they were living next door to a bomb factory.

Their relatives told police that the Torrechivas, victims of last Wednesday explosion, went into the hog-raising business to deceive them.

The relatives said the hogs in the couple's backyard were there to cover up the smell of gunpowder and other materials which the Torrechivas used to manufacture dynamite.

"We've been neighbors for so long, but we had no idea that (the Torrechivas) were engaged in that kind of business," said a woman relative of one of the victims who refused to be identified.

"We are still thinking whether to file charges against (the Torrechivas) because of what happened to us," said a brother of one of the injured.

Supt. Dionicio Boromeo said it was impossible for the neighbors to see what the couple was doing because the Torrechiva residence "was tightly guarded ... surrounded by high concrete walls."

Domingo, 49, and two others, died in the explosion that ripped through the Torrechiva household in Bagong Silang, said Boromeo, head of the Caloocan police intelligence and investigation division.

He said the widow Oliva, 42, will be charged with reckless imprudence resulting in homicide, multiple serious physical serious injuries, damage to property, and illegal possession and manufacture of explosives.

Oliva , who refused to be interviewed, told Borromeo that she tried to persuade her husband to stop manufacturing dynamite in their house.

The police official said the Torrechivas used to be the business partners of a family engaged in dynamite-making in Balintawak, Quezon City. Some of the members of that family died in a similar explosion last year, Borromeo added.

"(Domingo) used to be just an agent, but when his business partner died in last year's explosion, he took over as the manufacturer," Borromeo said.

Investigation showed that Domingo, a fish dealer, manufactured dynamite which he sold to fishermen in Cavite, Navotas, Malabon, and as far as Bicol.

Police said Domingo was using a welding torch to fix his jeep in his garage at about 3:15 p.m., when sparks flew and hit the cache of dynamite stored in the Torrechiva house.

A two-hour fire destroyed the house and damaged 13 others.

Police later found in the house 42 bundles of ready-to-use improvised blasting caps, 3 sacks of detonating cords, other chemical materials, a .357 revolver with five live rounds and P29,000 in cash.

Domingo, his brother-in-law Ricardo Cabelin, 5, and Mercy Masarate, 25, died in the explosion.

Still under observation at the East Avenue Medical Center were Oliva's year-old son Zyruz, Ruel Catapang, 27, his wife Jocelyn, 27, and Susana Mirabel, 36.

Roco deserved to be sacked

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

IT'S JUST as well President Macapagal-Arroyo has decided to accept the resignation of Education Secretary Raul Roco. Her first reaction when she learned about Roco's resignation was to woo him back.

It's time for her to move on and select his replacement. A leader can't afford to be too sentimental or emotional.

***

And she can't afford to have a spoiled brat in her Cabinet, either.

Roco acted like a spoiled brat having a tantrum when he quit his post just because the President endorsed the complaint against him to the Presidential Commission Against Graft and Corruption (PGAC).

The PGAC, an agency directly under the Office of the President, handles all graft cases filed against presidential appointees. Roco is the subject of several graft complaints filed by his subordinates at the Department of Education (DepEd).

***

GMA's endorsing the complaints against Roco to the PGAC was ministerial. All graft complaints against members of her official family have to pass through her desk. What she did was to just to pass those complaints on to the PGAC.

Roco said he was publicly humiliated by the President's move. He apparently listened to the media which gave malice to the move, interpreting it as having to do with Roco's topping a survey on who would win in a presidential election if it were held today.

Uto-uto si Roco. He's childish. What did national hero Jose Rizal say? *Ang maniwala sa sabi-sabi, walang bait sa sarili.*

***

As to his claim that he was humiliated in public, look who's talking. Roco allegedly hurled invectives at subordinates in public.

In short, he's ignorant of the Golden Rule: Don't do unto others as you would not want others to do unto you.

***

For his all vaunted brilliance, Roco is not wise. Being intelligent and being wise are two different things.

Roco thinks that he can use his top ratings in the Ibon Foundation survey, which doesn't have any scientific basis like the Social Weather Stations (SWS), to win in 2004 the presidential election.

***

Roco is stupid if he thinks he can win in 2004 when he no longer has a leg to stand on. He might be popular now but people will surely forget him.

The 2004 is still a long way off. Many things can happen between now and 2004. And he certainly is out of the race because he will no longer be in the news. Out of sight, out of mind.

***

Two persons I know very well have been hounded by adverse publicity lately.

One is Director Reynaldo Wycoco of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI). Wycoco is being criticized for allegedly wrongly implicating Acsa Ramirez, a cashier at the Land Bank of the Philippines, in a P203-million tax scam when she was supposedly its whistle-blower. Ramirez said she was humiliated in public.

If I know Wykes, he's not the type who would humiliate somebody in public, much less if that somebody happens to be a woman.

***

Let me tell you a short anecdote about Wykes.

Several years ago, when he was the chief of the National Capital Region Police Office, I brought before him a lowly carpenter's complaint of oppression against a Manila policeman.

With a camera crew with me, I confronted the subject of the complaint in front of Wycoco.

As I was scolding the cop for picking on the poor carpenter, I could see that Wycoco was cringing.

Wykes later told me he would never do what I did to the abusive cop. "You really have a strong stomach, Mon," he said. "I can never humiliate anybody in public even if that somebody is notorious."

***

Another friend who's under fire is businessman Wilfredo D. Keng, a.k.a. Willy Keng.

News reports have insinuated that he has had a hand in the ambush-slaying of former Manila councilor Chica Go, a fellow Chinese.

Keng, to whose son Bryan I stood as godfather eight years ago, is one guy who couldn't hurt a fly.

Babaero, yes, but not *mamamatay-tao.*

***

Reading another newspaper, I was touched by the letter of Michael Edgar Y. Aglipay, son of police Deputy Director General Edgar Aglipay, to the letters to the editor section.

The letter was full of bitterness for the shabby treatment his father received from Interior Secretary Joey Lina. The elder Aglipay was relieved as chief of the National Capital Region Police Office, the country's premier regional police unit.

"We, his family, have been hurt so much by the way he was relieved and humiliated," the younger Aglipay wrote. "We believe that a grave justice has been done to our father. We have forgiven those who have wronged us and we are trying to forget this sad chapter in our life. We want to move on and leave this behind."

***

Michael Edgar's hard feelings are understandable.

His father has built a reputation for honesty and integrity, only to be destroyed by *jueteng*. General Aglipay reportedly was not able to stop the illegal numbers game in his area of responsibility. The implication was that he was on the take from *jueteng* lords.

Nothing could be farther from the truth. I know Aglipay. He has never received any bribe from anybody. He's too rich for that.

A well-known *jueteng* lord once grudgingly told me he respected Aglipay when he was still chief of the Central Luzon police command. "*Hindi tumatanggap ng lagay yan*, Mon (He doesn't accept bribes)," the gambling lord said.

Michael Edgar, the heck with what other people think! You have nothing to be ashamed of because your father is an honest man.

River yields body of dead man; two flood victims found

THE BODY of an unidentified man, believed to be a victim of the recent floods, yesterday was found floating in a Caloocan City river.

Police said the man could have drowned during the heavy rains spawned by typhoon "Milenyo" earlier in the week, which flooded many parts of the metropolis.

Police described the victim as medium built and wearing only denim pants. He was found along the river bank in Phase 7-8, Package 10, Bagong Silang.

Police said a Ricardo Sanches spotted the body at about 7:30 a.m., after the flood had subsided.

The bodies of Darwin Revilloza, 25, and Wilnon Baniag, 4, were found last Thursday in separate parts of the city.

Police said Revillosa, of Bagong Silang, was reported missing Thursday afternoon after he accidentally fell into the Marilao River during the heavy rain.

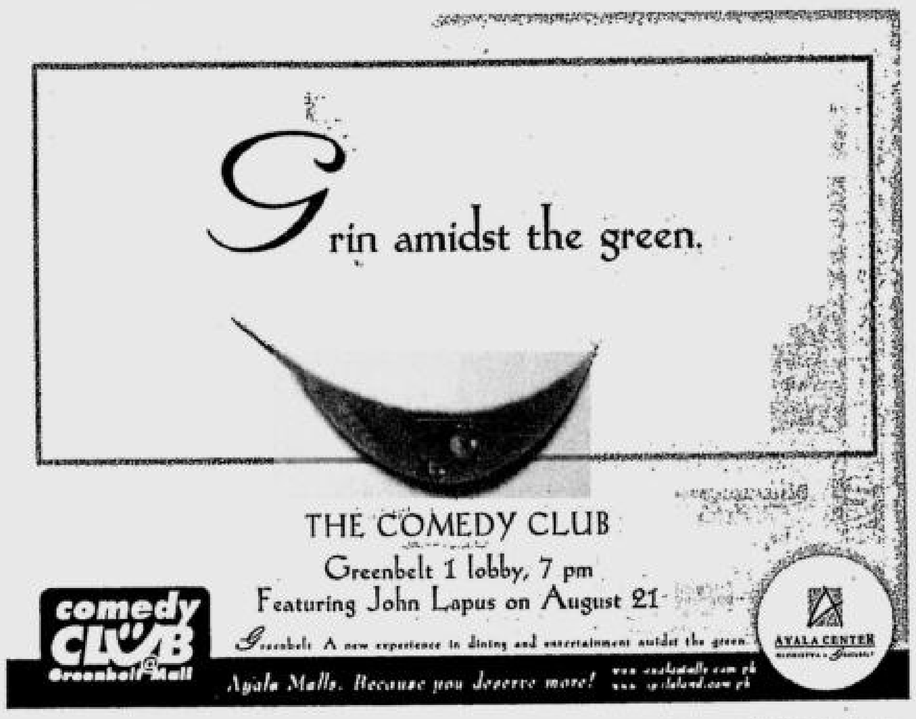
Baniag was last seen playing on a bridge in Camarin, earlier the same day. *Tina Santos*

Calapan seminary reunion

THE St. Augustine Seminary in Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro will hold a grand alumni homercoming on Dec. 27 and 28.

There will be a general meeting of all alumnus residing in Metro Manila tomorrow at 10 a.m. at St. Nicholas School, Twinville Subdivision, Concepcion, Marikina.

Call Cef Sulit at 820-9384, Sonny Dawis at 0917-537-0524, Dodjie Panganiban at 0917-898-1157.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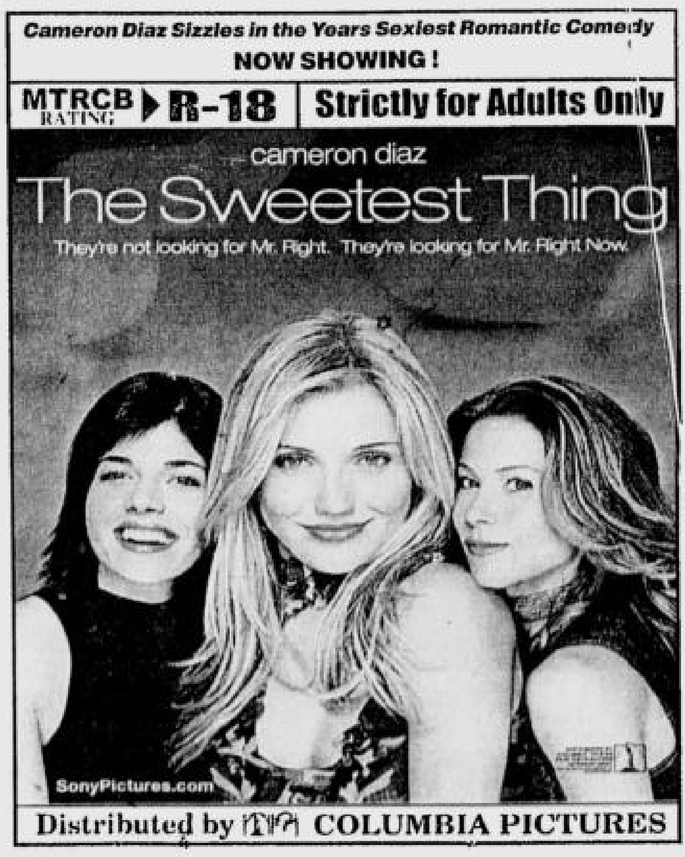
Manor prayer rally

THE PHILIPPINE Council of Evangelical Churches, together with the Philippines for Jesus Movement, is spearheading a prayer rally for the Quezon City Manor Hotel fire victims today at 4 p.m. in front of the building itself in Kamias Road, Quezon City.

The Aug. 18, 2001 tragedy claimed the lives of 81 people, 75 of whom were pastors and Christian workers.

The rally is open to all who wish to lend prayer and moral support to the Manor victims.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P1.5B to transport trash

WITH a P1.5 billion budget for the project to bring Metro Manila's garbage to Southern Luzon using railways, Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando has vowed to make the project operational within a year.

"We have been given P1.5 billion for the railroading of the garbage," Fernando said on the TV show "Debate" on Thursday night. "We will finish the project in a year's time."

Fernando said the President had expressly asked him to finish the project within a year.

Fernando earlier said the Philippine National Railways is open to the project, although several of its trains would need to be replaced or repaired.

Leila B. Salaverria

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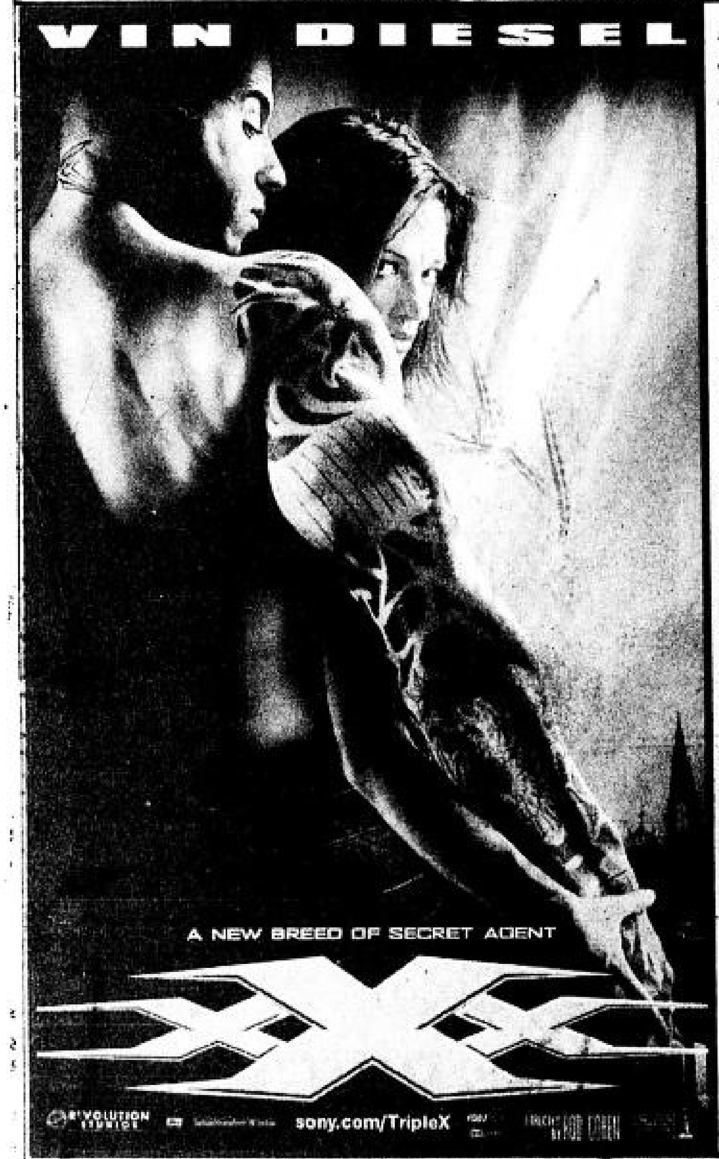
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His secret agent code name: xXx (Triple X).

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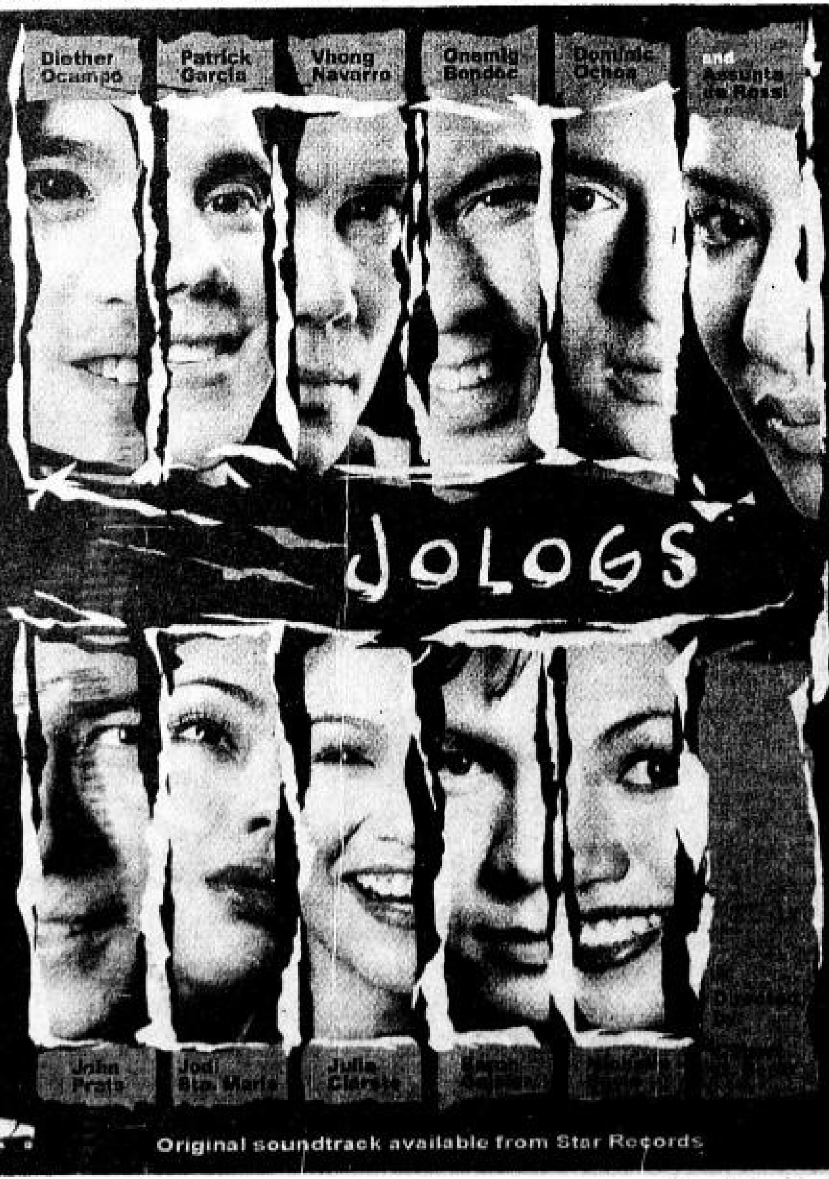
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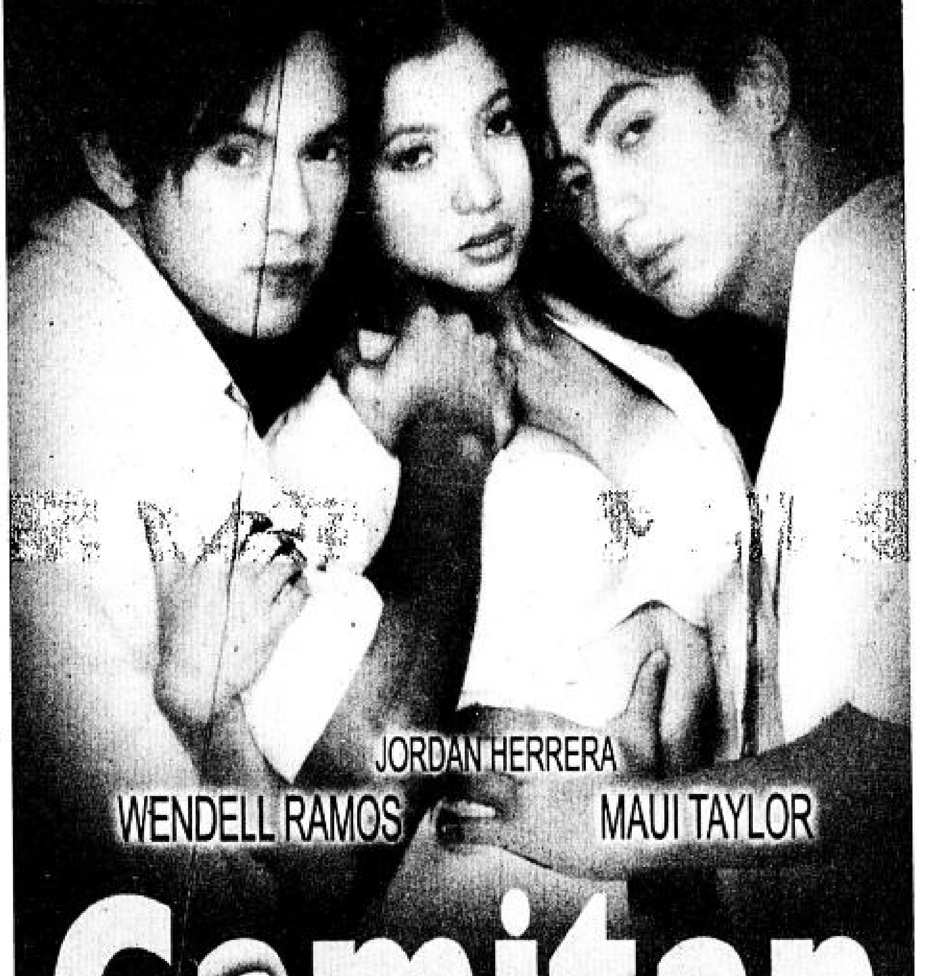

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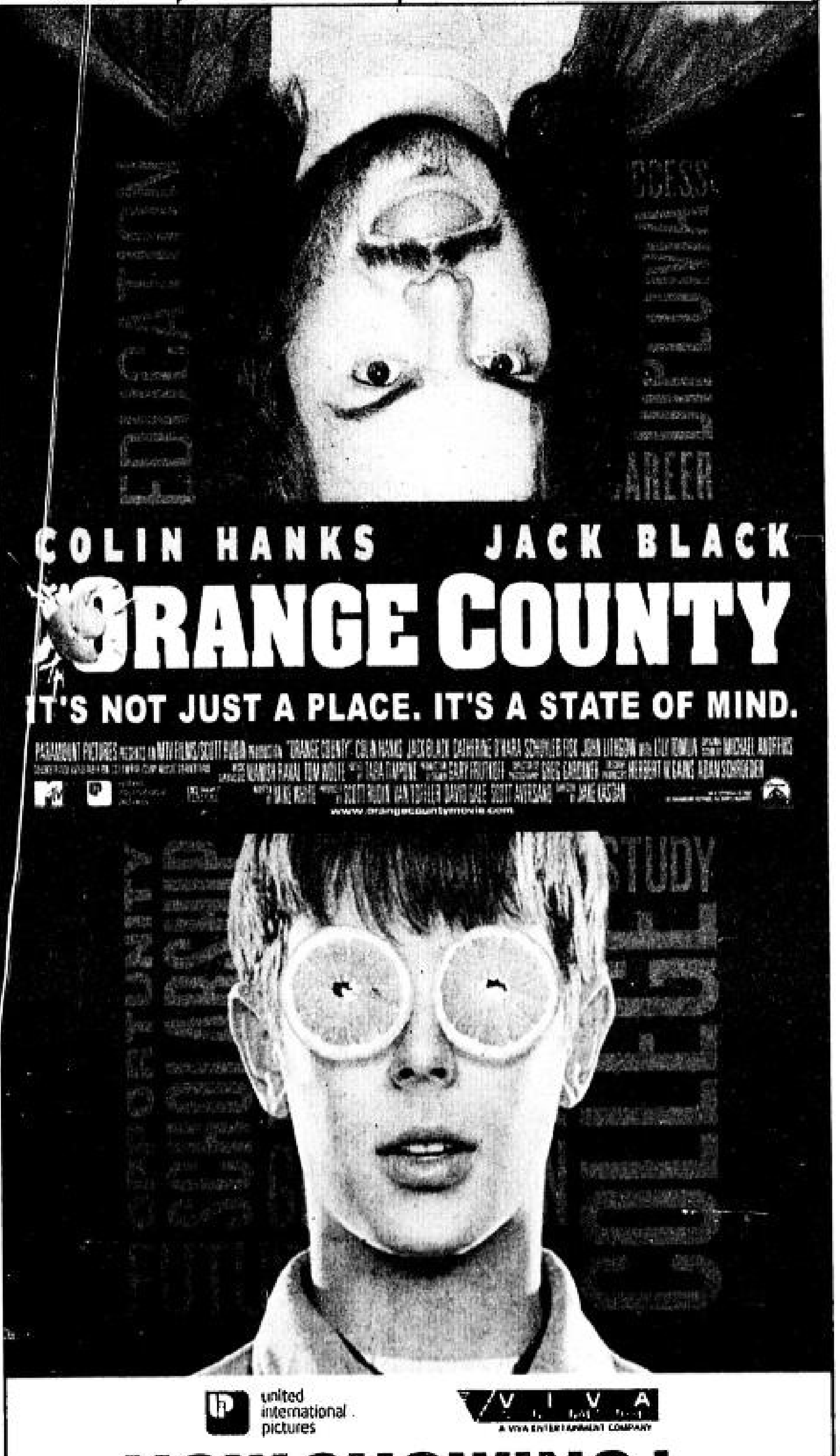
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'Probe assault on 4 cadets'

BAYAN MUNA Rep. Liza Maza yesterday called on Lyceum of the Philippines authorities to investigate the alleged sexual assault on four female Reserve Officers Training Course (ROTC) cadets by a junior officer there.

The four female ROTC cadets had accused a junior officer at Lyceum of abusing them during weekend ROTC training.

Lyceum officials said on Thursday that they would release the result of their investigation in the next few days.

"We're not taking this sitting down," said Leonida Africa, Lyceum vice president for academic affairs.

Maza asked school authorities to suspend the junior officer whom the four 17-year-old female cadets accused of molesting them inside the school's ROTC office. The female cadets were applicants for the cadet officers' candidate course.

Maza also pointed out the need to review, revise and even repeal the National Service Training Program (NTSP) given the sexual harassment case and others recently reported.

The NTSP was passed into law last year following calls for the abolition of the ROTC in the wake of the murder of UST student and ROTC cadet Mark Chua.

Africa said the Lyceum Office of Student Affairs received the female cadets' complaint on July 26 and began investigating the following day.

Africa said the complainant had requested for privacy so the school did not divulge any detail in the case.

Christine Avendaño, Cristian V. Esguerra

NO IFS or buts or maybes. Three of the four suspected "criminals with badges" are presented by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

JOAN BONDOC

'Magic Eye' catches 4 'kotong' officers

By Alcuin Papa

FOUR MUNTINLUPA City policemen were arrested early yesterday morning by members of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) allegedly in the act of mulcting drivers.

The four "kotong" cops were identified as PO1 Fernando Pinongan, PO2 Conrado Duran, PO2 June Reyes, and SPO1 Edison Belmonte, all assigned to the mobile patrol group of the Muntinlupa police.

They were presented to media yesterday by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo herself in a news conference at the NCRPO headquarters in Quezon City.

NCRPO chief Deputy Director Gen. Reynaldo Velasco said they had received numerous complaints from motorists from Southern Luzon who use the Alabang Road in Muntinlupa that the four policemen had been mulcting them.

Velasco ordered the NCRPO's Counter Intelligence Special Unit to watch the four suspected policemen under his "Magic Eye" program.

About 1:30 a.m. yesterday, a truck loaded with coco lumber and driven by Durante Carillaga, 42, of San Pedro, Laguna, was intercepted on Alabang Road by mobile car number 563 of the Muntinlupa police station. The four policemen were on board the police car.

After Carillaga gave the four policemen P300, members of NCRPO immediately arrested the four.

"The PNP is determined to fight crimes and arrest all criminals, even those who wear the police badge," the President said. "Today our police officers are sending a strong message that where crime is concerned there are no ifs or buts or maybes. A criminal is a criminal whatever uniform or clothes he may wear."

She stressed that the PNP is succeeding in its drive against criminals because of the "pro-active involvement" of citizens and their teamwork with the police.

Velasco's "Magic Eye" program involves catching on video criminals as well as lawmen in the act of committing crimes and taking immediate action against them .

> 'The PNP is determined to fight crimes and arrrest all criminals, even those who wear the police badge,' the President said.

Aglipay accusers accuse 3 more

By Jerome Aning

SIX POLICEMEN who had sued former National Capital Regional Police Office director Gen. Edgardo Aglipay for illegal transfer have implicated three more of their superiors as co-respondents.

They implicated former Manila police chief Gen. Nicolas Pasinos Jr., Metro Manila Drug Enforcement group commander Senior Supt. Nicasio Radovan Jr., and Western Police District Station 7 drug enforcement unit head Insp. Francisco Sevilla III.

SPO2 Luisito Aguilar, SPO1 Noel Vizcarra, PO1 Julius Garcia, SPO1 Noel de la Cruz, SPO1 Danilo Malibiran and PO1 Joseph Flores said Sevilla authored the intelligence report which caused their transfer.

The case is pending before the Commission on Elections.

They implicated Radovan and Pasinos for "having conspired in effecting an unlawful order," referring to their transfer last June, during the barangay election period.

Election rules forbid the transfer of any police personnel during an election period without prior permit from the Comelec chair.

Aglipay and two others earlier named in the suit—Senior Superintendents Oscar Marina and Apolinar Abajera, NCRPO chief directorial staff and personel chief—admitted approving the transfer.

They said they relied on Radovan's recommendation that the six be transferred for alleged involvement in illegal drug syndicates.

In their defense, Aglipay, Marinas and Albajera cited a Supreme Court decision, People vs. Reyes.

They said the ruling backs their stand that the transfer of the six was the prerogative of their superior officers and was not done as part of electioneering or partisan political campaign.

Atienza sued . . .

From p. A23

Manila's 1st District accused the mayor of violating the ordinance when he tried to legitimize the extension of operations through a memorandum of understanding Atienza forged with the oil companies. The Department of Energy brokered the agreement two days before the deadline.

The new permit extended operations of the depot up to Dec. 31, 2002.

Asilo a member of the city council's six-member opposition, voted against the adoption of the July 25 memorandum of understanding extending the operations.

But Monsod stressed that the MOU has been reviewed and approved by the council majority.

"The MOU went through the proper legal processes," he said, adding that it substantially complied with the ordinance "providing for the development of Pandacan."

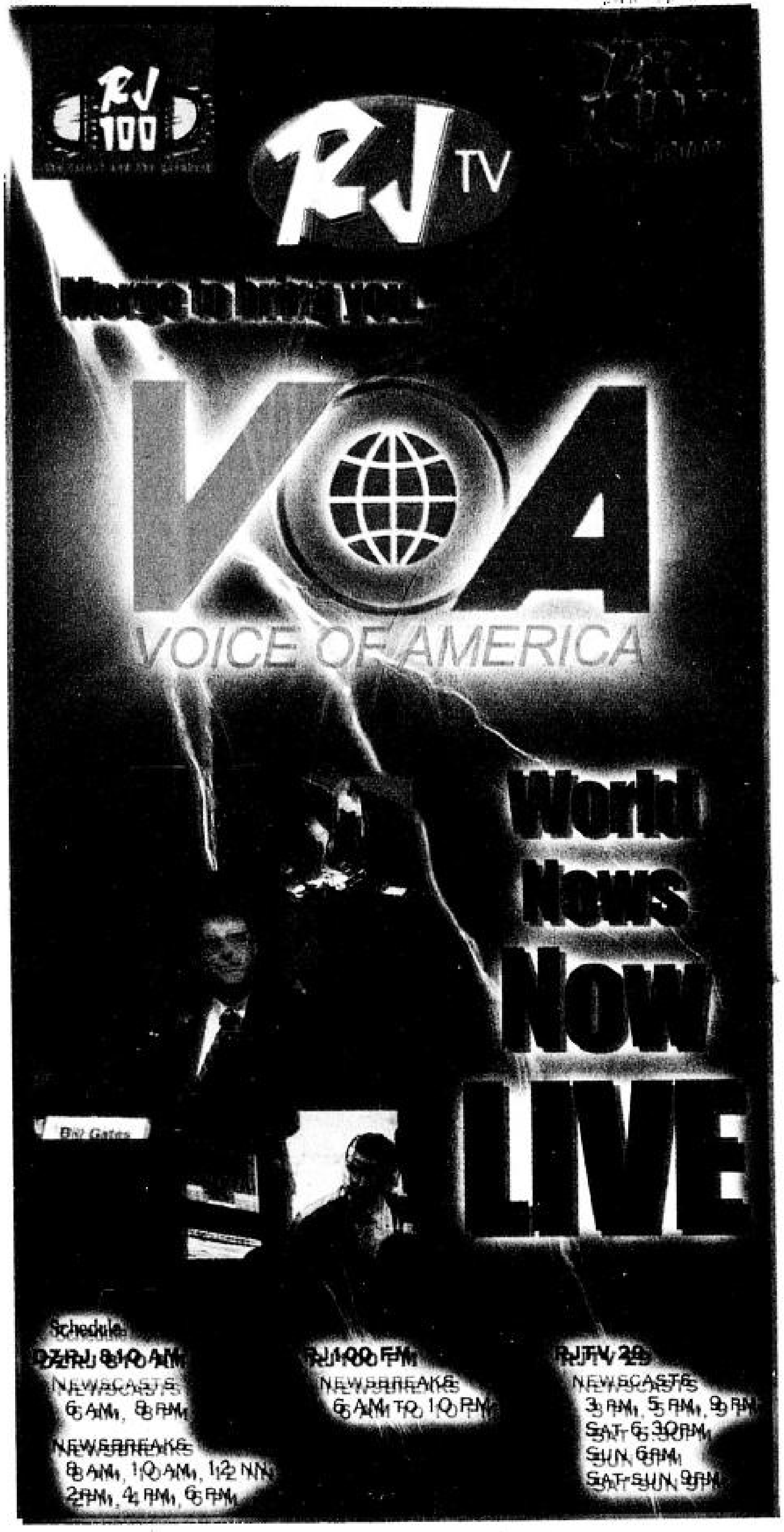
The mayor's office "stands on firm legal ground and we are confident that its actions would be affirmed," Monsod said.

In a joint news conference with members of Bayan's National Capital Region office, Asilo said Atienza should be held liable for violation of the Anti-Graft Law as well as the Local Government Code for entering into an arrangement with the oil firms that was '"grossly disadvantageous to the City of Manila."'

Local residents backed by cause-oriented groups have been calling for the depot's closure. The campaign intensified after the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks in the United States.

They fear that an accident or a terrorist attack would turn the facility and the surrounding community into a howling inferno.

During a city council hearing last year, fire and police authorities admitted they were undermanned and ill-equipped to defend the depot from a large fire or a terrorist strike.



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THE SWEETEST THING **R18** 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	**ORANGE COUNTRY** **P13** 12:40, 2:30, 4:20, 6:10, 8:00, 9:50	**UNFAITHFUL** **R 18** 11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10

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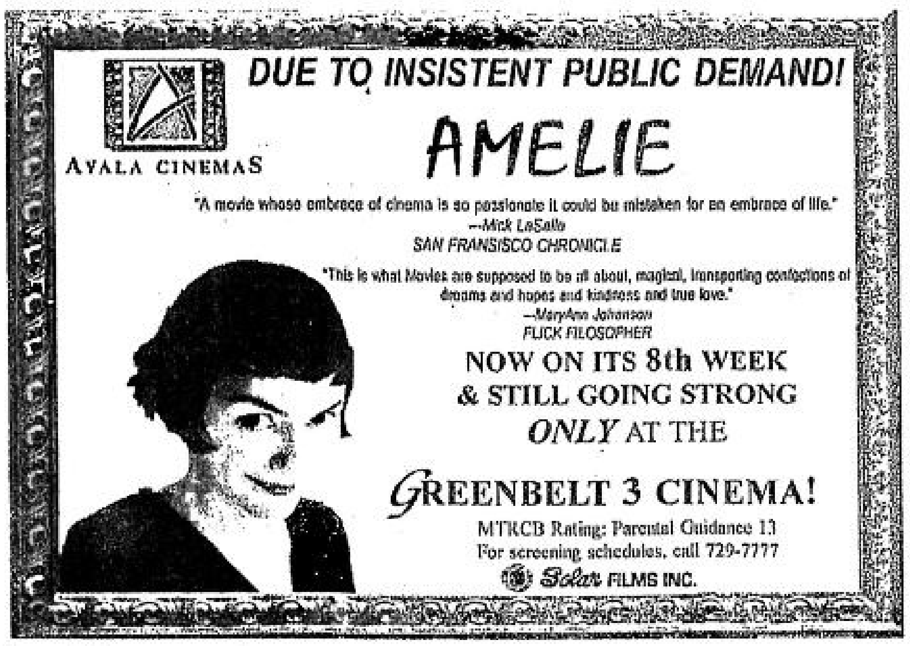

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	UNFAITHFUL
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	WINDTALKERS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	KILLING ME SOFTLY
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	BIGLANG LIKO
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	D' URAGONS
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
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TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	HART'S WAR / SCORPION KING
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	MAPUPULANG ROSAS
REMAR	BIGLANG LIKO
REMAR-2	MAPUPULANG ROSAS
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A	BIGLANG LIKO
B	MAPUPULANG ROSAS
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
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CINEMA-5 (DTS)	D' URAGONS
CINEMA-6	UNFAITHFUL
CINEMA-7	STUART LITTLE 2
CINEMA-8	ABOUT A BOY
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	UNFAITHFUL
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ORANGE COUNTRY
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	LILO & STITCH
CINEMA-12	SWEETEST THING
CINEMA-14	KILLING ME SOFTLY
CINEMA-15	8 LEGGED FREAKS
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-3	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA
CINEMA-5	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-6	SELDA
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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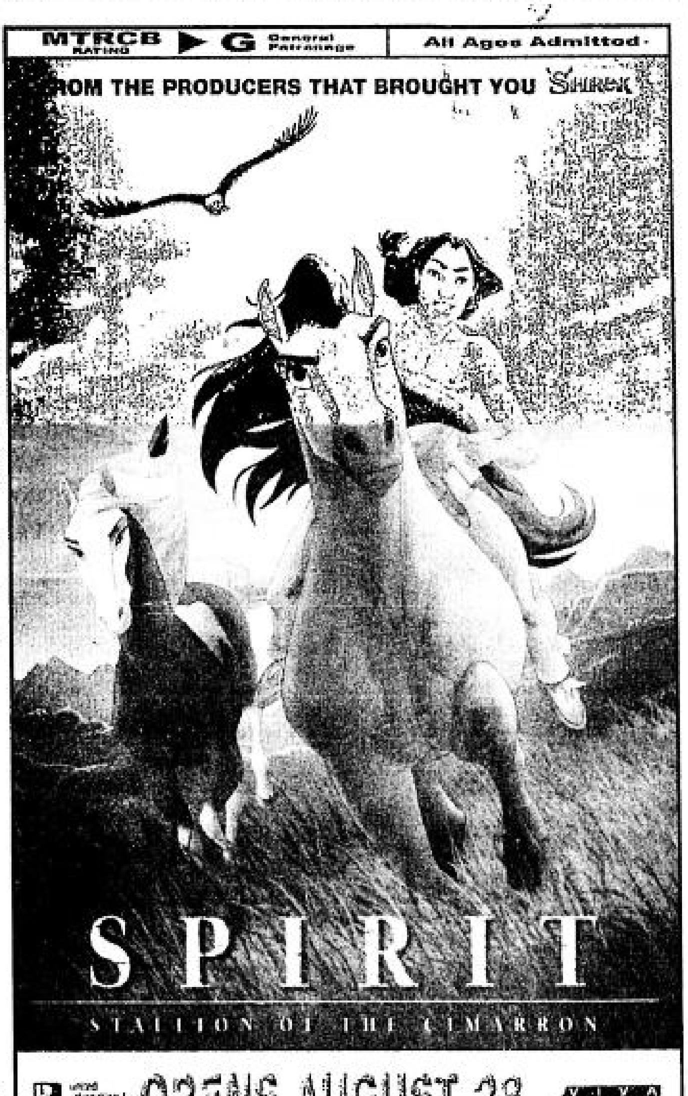
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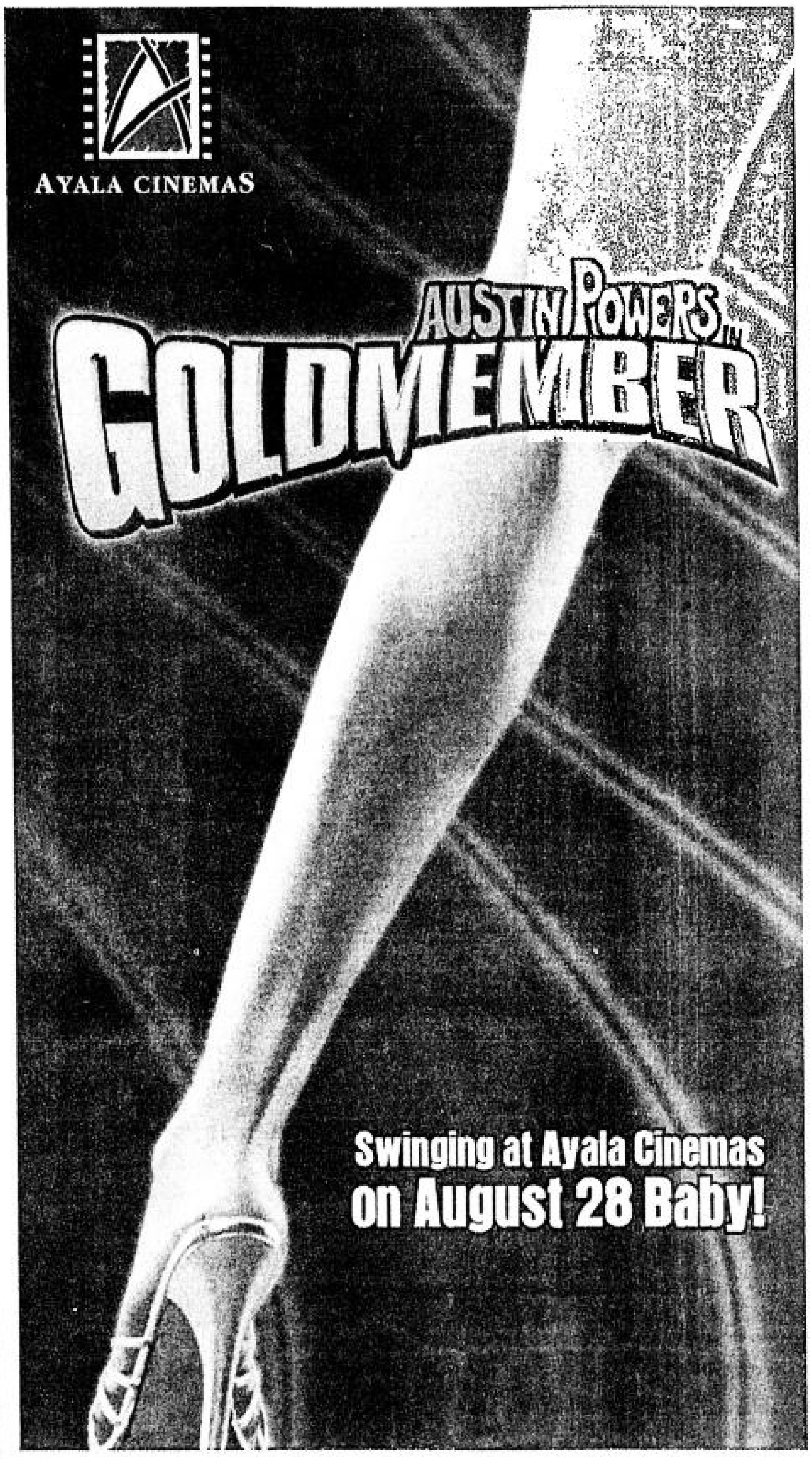

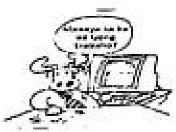

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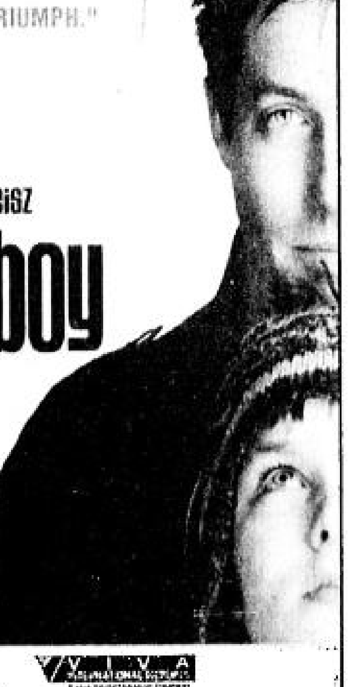

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HIGH EXPLOSIVE

3 charged with San Beda collapse

By Philip C. Tubeza

POLICE filed criminal charges early this week against three engineers of Legacy Construction Corp. for the collapse of a gymnasium scaffolding at San Beda College that killed three persons last week.

Western Police District case investigator Detective Rodelio Lingcong said project engineer Edmundo Gadia, his assistant Laurece Gadia, and materials engineer Rodelio Roduta were charged with reckless imprudence resulting in multiple homicide and multiple serious physical injuries.

The charges were filed before the Manila City Prosecutor's Office.

The WPD handled the criminal aspect of the case while city hall was still trying to find out if Legacy violated safety regulations.

Lingcong said that their investigation showed there was no safety engineer at the scene when the accident occurred before dawn of Aug. 10.

"The lighting at the scene was also not sufficient," Lingcong said.

Construction workers were allegedly pumping cement on a horizontal beam about 20 meters long when a pump hose, which was connected to a boom crane, snagged the edge of the beam and caused the scaffolding to topple over.

"That is the allegation but no witnesses said that on record," Lingcong said.

Briton slay suspects nabbed

By Leila B. Salaverria

A SECOND suspect in the killing of a Briton was arrested on Thursday, only hours after the first suspect fell into the hands of police.

P02 Reynaldo Juan of the Makati City Police's homicide division said Arnold Adoray, 32, of Balibago, Angeles, Pampanga, was arrested at noon in Pampanga on Thursday. The suspect is the branch manager of Silver Wings security agency in that province, police said.

Juan said a witness had identified Adoray as one of four men who barged into Steven Davis' house in Makati and shot the sleeping Briton to death on July 18. Davis was a director of Jadecool Internet Management.

'Desperate'

From p. A23

MMDA Deputy Chair Cesar Lacuna had said the workers are merely implementing a resolution recently passed by the Metro Manila Council declaring all objects on sidewalks as common garbage.

Fernando also reiterated yesterday that sidewalk vendors could transfer their businesses inside marketplaces because there is a lot of space there. He said proof of this is the Balintawak market, which he visited along with reporters on Monday.

Vendors have complained that they could not afford the marketplace rent, but the MMDA chair said yesterday that some of them might have "ulterior motives" in saying that.

"Nanlalamang lang ang iba diyan (Some of them just want to put one over other vendors," he said.

He explained that many vendors want to do business on the sidewalks because more people would buy from them than when they are inside the markets.

A coconut vendor on Monday said in an interview that the rent for a market stall is too high for people like him who do not have much capital.

He said the rent is P60-P120 a day, a big dent on his daily capital of P200-P350.

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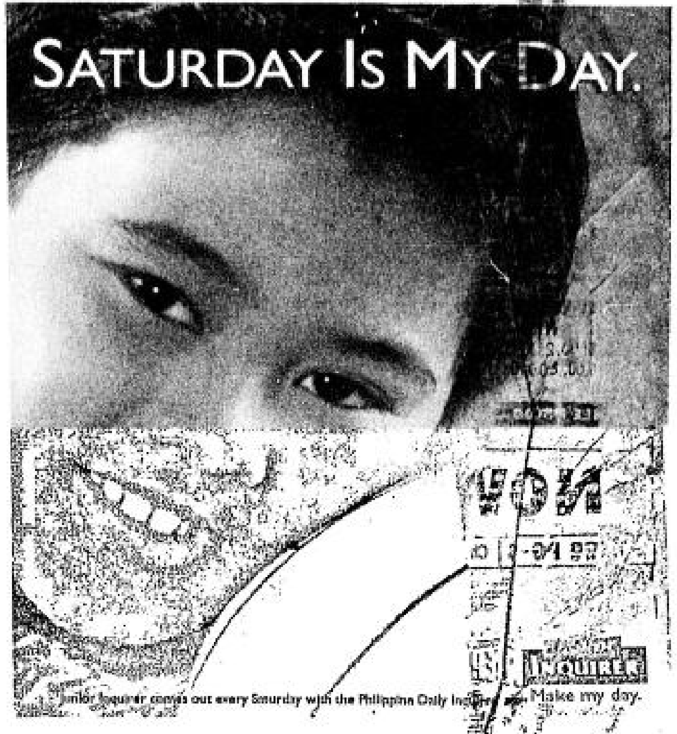
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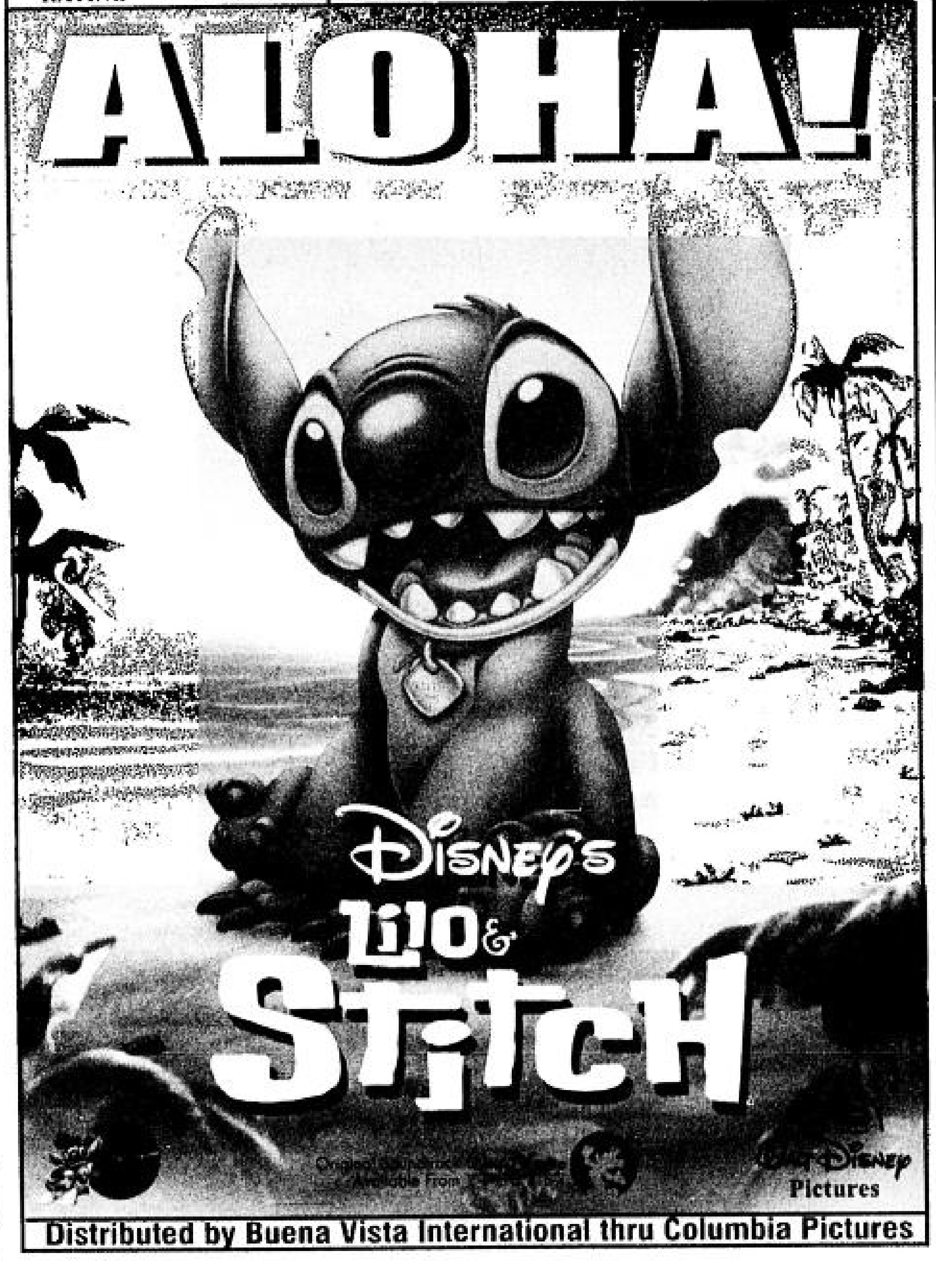

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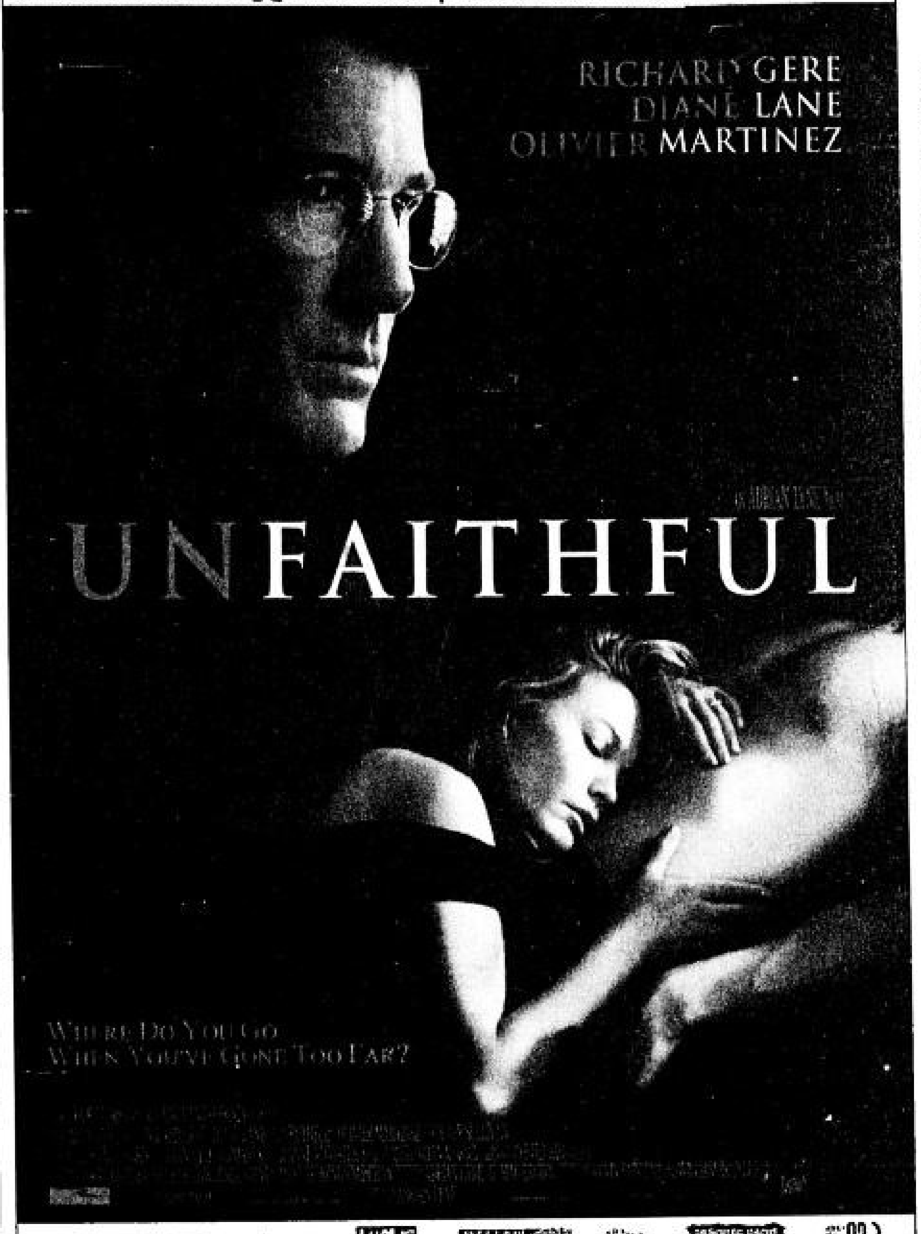

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2 KILLING ME SOFTLY	2 KILLING ME SOFTLY	MAKATI CINEMANILA 2002	UNFAITHFUL 1:00, 3:45, 6:30, 9:15, 12:00	2 THE UNFAITHFUL
3 THE SWEETEST THING	UNFAITHFUL [illegible], 1:00, 3:45, 6:30 9:15, 12:00	Onstage RICO J. PUNO IN SOMETHING WONDERFUL AUG. 16 - 9PM	AMELIE [illegible]00, 3:35, 6:10, 8:45, 11:20	LILO & STITCH
4 UNFAITHFUL	4 ORANGE COUNTY	GARY V: HITS AT ONSTAGE-SEPT.6	4 KILLING ME SOFTLY 12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05, 11:15	4 ABOUT A BOY
	5 8 LEGGED FREAKS		LILO & STITCH 11:20, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20, 11:20	5 SWEETEST THING
	6 THE SWEETEST THING			
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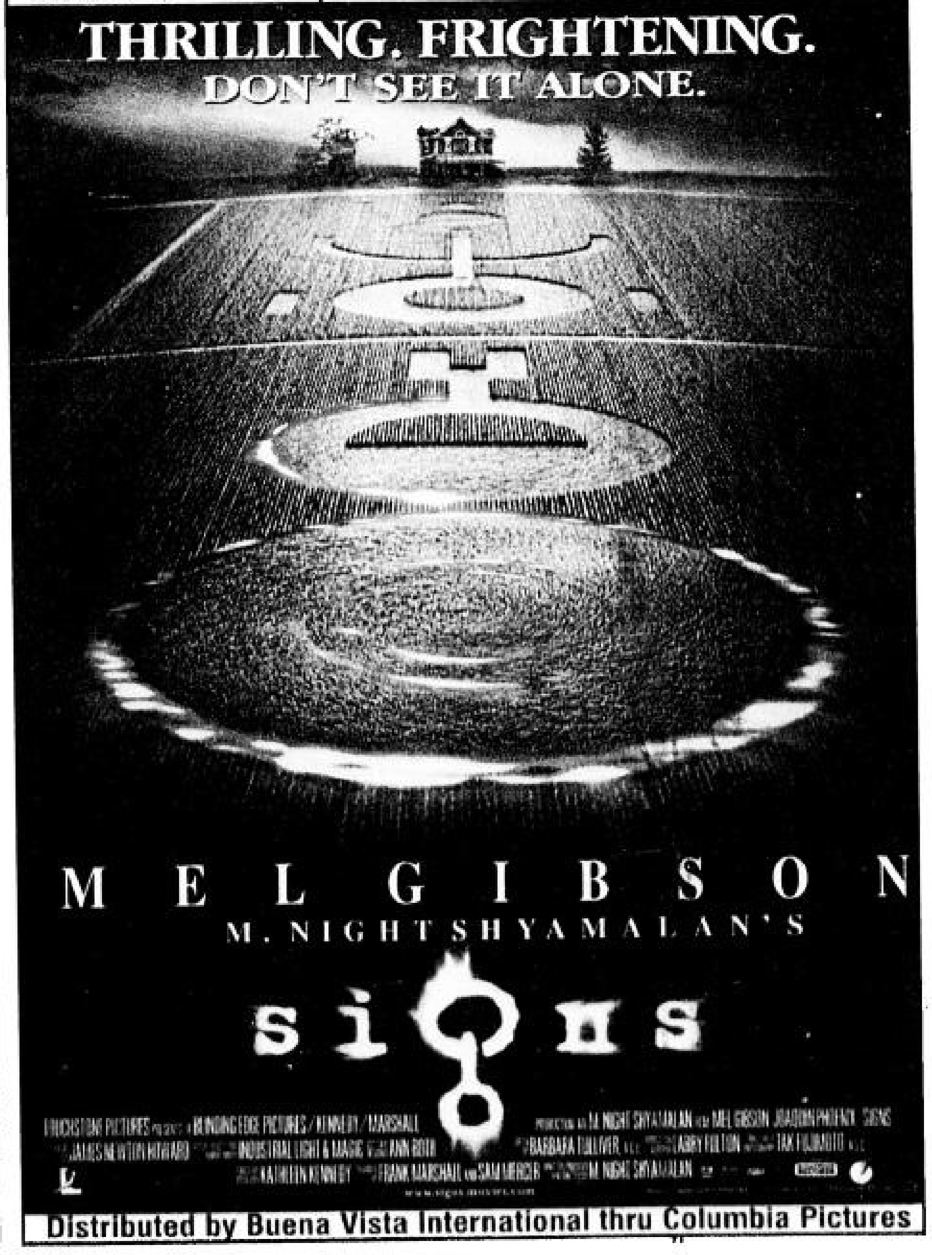

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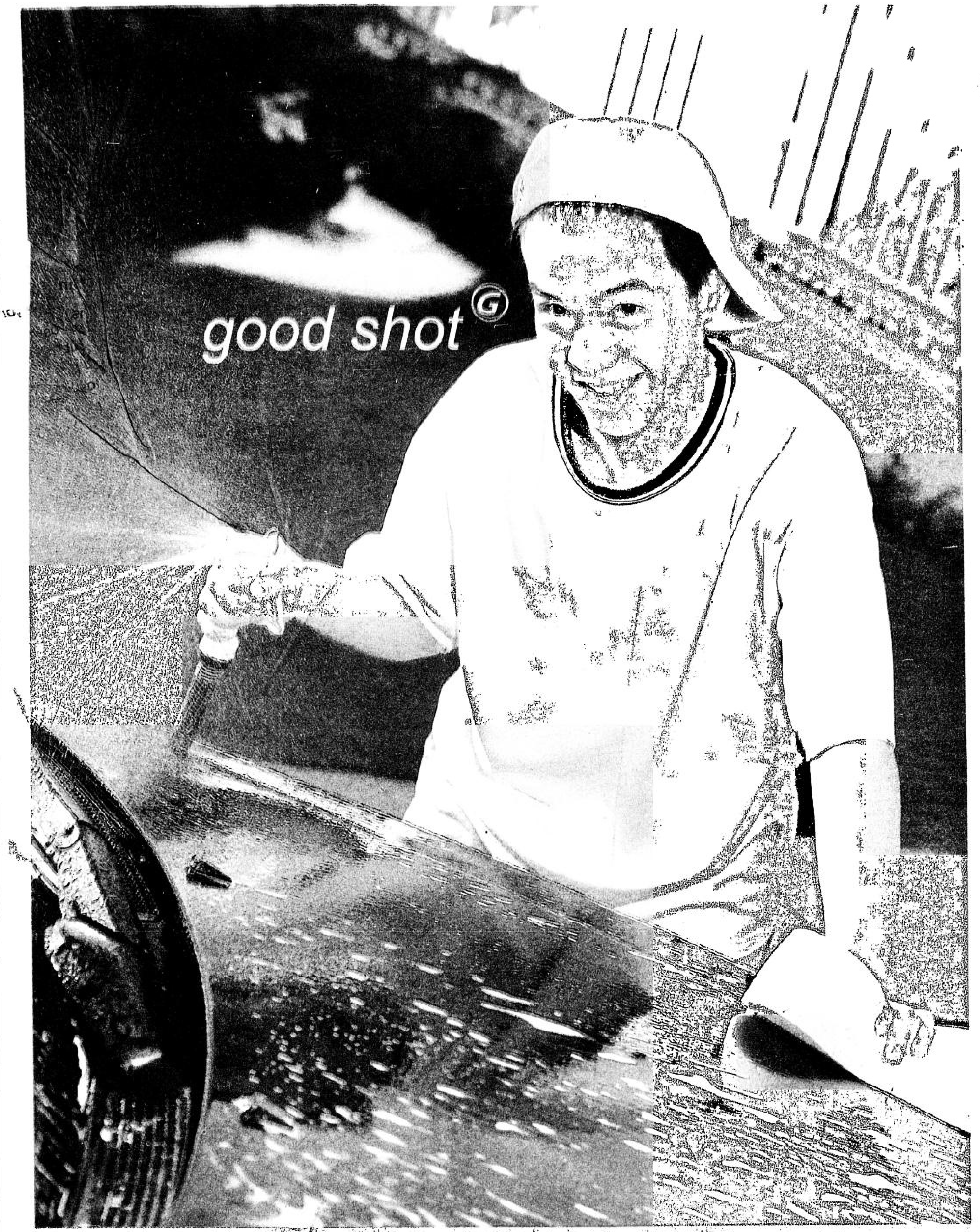

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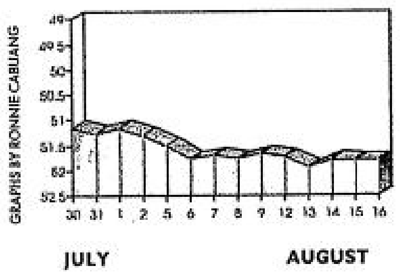

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STOCK MARKET

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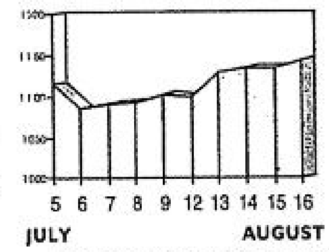


(See stock market report on Page

SHARE prices climbed 0.9 percent yesterday due to bargain-hunting but trading volume remained slim, dealers said.

"The market is flat and there are no new leads. We already have the US Fed meeting behind us and corporate earnings results are mostly out," said Jose Vistan of AB Capital Securities Inc.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index rose 10.48 points to close at 1,143.57.

AFP

Gov't borrowings seen declining by 28% in 2003

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday announced that it had raised by 68 percent the amount it needed to borrow from the local and foreign markets this year in anticipation of a higher-than-expected budget deficit.

In a statement detailing the financing requirements for 2003, the government admitted that its borrowings this year would hit P190.4 billion against the P113 billion programmed for 2002.

However, the increase in the borrowing requirement this year should no longer affect interest rates because the government had already raised the additional amount from the issuance of three- and five-year retail bonds that yielded P63 billion in proceeds in June.

The budget deficit had swelled to P119.7 billion as of the first half or 150 percent of the target for the period and 91 percent of the P130-billion target for the year. As of July, the deficit was estimated to have reached P130 billion based on preliminary estimates of the government.

For next year, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the government would need to borrow P136 billion from the local and foreign markets to finance a programmed deficit of P142 billion.

Camacho noted in a statement that the amount to be raised next year was 28 percent lower than this year's programmed borrowing of P190 billion.

Of the P136-billion borrowing requirement, Camacho said the government would raise 56 percent from the foreign markets and 44 percent from domestic investors.

Of the P76.16 billion to be raised from abroad, Camacho said 36 percent would be from commercial sources and 20 percent would be financed by project and program loans.

The government would thus raise P59.64 billion from the domestic market through the issuance of treasury bills and bonds next year.

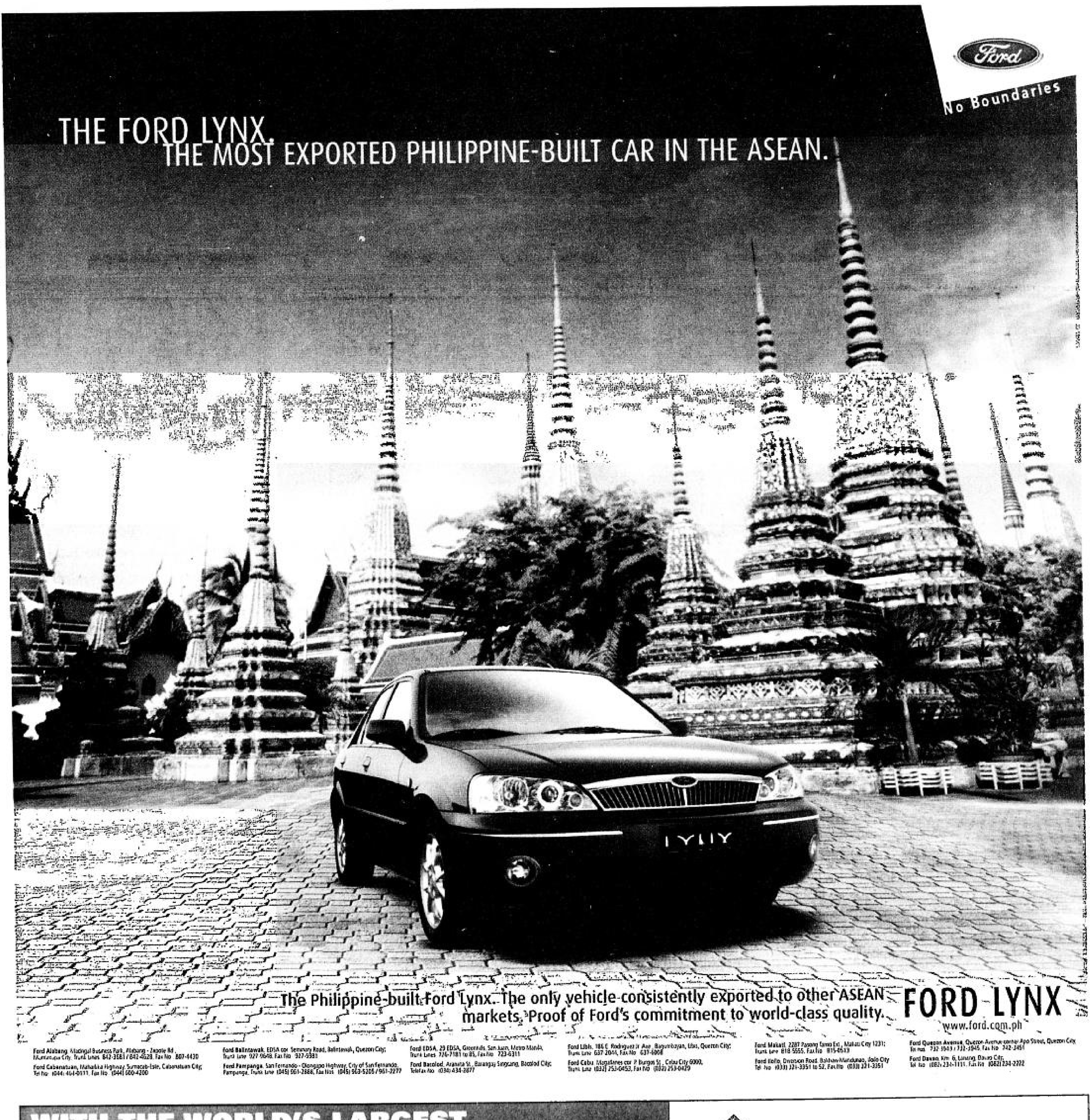
"Next year's fiscal program continues to focus on fiscal discipline and maintaining general price stability. The government will maintain its general objectives of reducing financing cost, lengthening the maturity profile of debts, diversifying the investor base, and further developing the capital markets and managing risks," Camacho said.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza pointed out that the government had realized P16.7 billion in interest payment savings during the first half as the cost of borrowing from external and local sources during the first semester declined significantly.

Camacho said the government should realize an additional P5-10 billion in savings during the second half as domestic interest rates remained modest.

This year, Edeza said that spreads on Philippine bonds went down by about two percentage points while domestic and short-term cost of financing dropped by five percentage points and two percentage points.

"The return of macroeconomic stability has significantly enhanced the conduct of our financing programs. With these developments, we expect to continue to remain committed to fiscal discipline," Edeza said in a statement.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BSP accredits CL Manabat, allows auditor to seek clients

By Clarissa S. Batino

REYES

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has allowed auditing firm CL Manabat & Co. to seek clients within the commercial banking system, making it the sixth to be accredited by the policy-making Monetary Board.

CL Manabat, SGV & Co., Punongbayan & Araullo, Joaquin Cunanan PricewaterhouseCoopers, Laya Mananghaya KPMG, and Guzman Bocaling are the only six auditing firms that the country's 44 commercial banks could hire to inspect their books.

Two years ago, the BSP had required commercial banks to hire only accredited accounting firms to improve financial reporting.

CL Manabat is the local representative of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, one of the top five auditing firms in the world.

It is reportedly talking with Punongbayan & Araullo for a possible union after its foreign partner Ernst & Young took off and partnered with SGV & Co.

BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes said CL Manabat met the requirements for accreditation. These include having at least 20 clients with resources of at least P50 million each, at least five years experience in auditing and has at least one client among the commercial banks.

Banco de Oro, a universal bank controlled by the family of mall tycoon Henry Sy, is among the clients of CL Manabat.

The BSP earlier required that an auditing firm must have no outstanding loan or credit with any of the banks it would audit, but the policy was eased last February

"The accounting firm must have no direct or indirect material financial interest in any bank it would or is already auditing to maintain its financial independence," the BSP official said.

In circular issued last February, the policy-making Monetary Board said it could dispense with the requirement that all external auditors and the members of the audit team be certified by Professional Regulation Commission before they could be hired to audit a bank's finances.

"In the event that the certification could not be obtained because of a pending case, the BSP may dispense with this requirement upon determination by the Monetary Board that the case involves purely legal question, or does not, in any way, negate the auditor's adherence to the highest standards of professional conduct and degrade his integrity and objectivity," said the BSP circular.

LBP eyes $40-M ADB program fund for microfinance projects

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE LAND Bank of the Philippines has expressed interest to be the designated conduit bank of the $40-million microfinance fund of the Asian Development Bank.

LBP would compete with the Development Bank of the Philippines for these funds, which are scheduled to be released next year.

LBP feels that it has a good chance of cornering the fund as it already has a project with the ADB, a $34-million relending program with the International Fund for Agriculture Development.

"The ADB wants to continue the lending program especially targeting small enterprises, but now they would want to expand the market base for this program," explained Land Bank first vice president for program lending Nenita H. Veran in an interview yesterday.

In a related development, LBP said it was named the administrator of a relending project targeting urban services in Mindanao.

Veran said the relending program loan worth $30 million would be given directly or indirectly to local government units in Mindanao.

Projects such as public markets and other urban infrastructure projects could be financed through these loans.

LBP is closely coordinating with the Department of Interior and Local Government for the capacity building program of the LGUs coinciding with the funds they would administer.

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Gov't seen pressing WTO to keep sugar tariffs high

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE MACAPAGAL administration will lobby in the World Trade Organization to further raise the tariff on sugar imports despite concerns that other commodities would have to be sacrificed to get the nod of countries that produce this sweetener.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said his agency has forwarded to the WTO the country's intent of seeking an adjustment in its bound rate or maximum duty on sugar from 65 percent to 80 percent for the next 10 years.

The Philippines charges two types of tariffs on sugar—50 percent for select imports going through minimum access volume, and the most favored nation (MFN) rate of 65 percent.

Roxas said the petition for higher sugar tariffs was being made ahead of the scheduled reduction in duties under the WTO commitments made. Tariff on sugar is expected to fall to 50 percent next year.

Roxas said he was aware that such a request would entail compensation by the Philippines to major sugar producers such as Thailand, Australia and Brazil whose consent were necessary to approve the tariff hike on sugar.

Asked why the government would continue to support a long-standing industry which has been the beneficiary of state protection and subsidies for decades, Roxas said the industry was facing new challenges in the form of new technology in farming and milling.

Roxas said he was convinced by the industry's commitment to infuse new money to develop their mills and farms and make the industry competitive under a 10-year development plan.

Roxas also refuted insinuations of his alleged bias for the industry considering that he is a scion of the Roxas-Araneta family whose members were among the country's sugar barons. "We have no current interest in operating mills now and our mills have been sold or are not in operation for a variety of reasons."

Roxas added that the government's decision to support the sugar industry should not be stacked up against its decision on other industries that were petitioning for a delay in their tariffs like petrochemicals. He said each industry has its own problem and need, which the government would address on a case-to-case basis.

Gov't, NZ firm OK wind-diesel power project

By Ronnel W. Domingo

ORMOC CITY—State firm PNOC Energy Development Corp. yesterday announced that it has firmed up a deal with a New Zealand-based energy firm to set up an off-grid, wind-diesel power project in Leyte.

PNOC-EDC chair Sergio Apostol said the power system, which will be ready by next year, will have a generating capacity of 10-20 kilowatts.

Apostol said Empower Consultant Ltd. would provide funding amounting to P8 million and technical assistance—including the supply of turbines—for the system under the New Zealand government's Asia Development Assistance Facility.

"The project will run on wind and diesel. It will provide energy to 170 households of Barangay Malaguicay in Abuyog town," he said. "This will serve as a model for future off-grid wind power systems."

The barangay is about 70 kilometers from the provincial capital city of Tacloban.

Aspostol said PNOC-EDC would provide the distribution lines, labor and logistics support for the facility, which is expected to generate electricity at lower costs since it will be using more wind than diesel.

"If it proves viable, the hybrid system can be replicated in other remote villages," the former Leyte congressman said.

He added that the power project would also provide the benchmarks for social and environmental issues that may come up with such systems.

"This project is part of the government's rural electrification program and its promotion of clean and renewable energy sources," Apostol said.

He explained that many communities that remained unserved were either in isolated islands or in the hinterlands, which are physically and financially difficult to link with the main power grids.

"Just the same, they need and deserve reliable and affordable electricity service which only stand-alone power units can provide," he said.

According to the Department of Energy, about 6,700 villages or 16 percent of the country's 42,000 barangays remain without electricity.

The DOE also noted that off-grid power units were mostly dependent on diesel-fired generators.

₱680 underpayment threatens pioneer investor in Clark

By Raul C. Dancel

FOR a paltry sum of P680, the Department of Labor and Employment is threatening to shut down a pioneer investor of the Clark special economic zone.

Documents sent to the INQUIRER showed that the Department of Labor and Employment's regional office in San Fernando, Pampanga, is investigating Hansa Toy International Inc. for allegedly underpaying its 150 employees by 4 centavos a day and by a twelfth of that amount in holiday pay.

Hansa, a major exporter of stuffed toys, has been in Clark since 1994.

The sum being charged amounts to P680 over six months at P4.80 per employee.

"I thought it was a joke. It was ridiculous," Hansa managing director Hans Axthelm told the INQUIRER.

"After all, no person with even the slightest amount of common sense would make an issue over 4 centavos and prompt an overseas phone call that costs more than what they are after. A normal person would simply request to 'round the amount up' on the next pay period and that would be the end of the matter," he said.

Axthelm said he would discuss the matter with Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas.

He suggested that the actions of the labor department's regional office could be part of tactics by certain officials of Clark Development Corp. to muscle him out of Clark.

Axthelm, a former president of the Clark Investors and Locators Association, has been a vocal critic of CDC president Manuel Angeles.

In August last year, Axthelm reported that 36 locators closed shop in 18 months and six more were planning to shut down and leave Clark out of frustration with the way the government had been running the economic zone.

He also disclosed that some of the 12 commercial banks operating inside Clark were set to move out of the economic zone because of the government's failure to operate the Clark international airport.

These disclosures reportedly drew Angeles' ire, who summoned Axthelm only to berate him and throw him out of his office.

Angeles is said to be particularly hostile toward foreigners.

"He doesn't like Australians. He doesn't like foreigners *per se*," says one locator, who requested anonymity for fear of reprisal.

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Jollibee restructures ₱850-M fixed-term loan from Citibank

By Doris C. Dumlao

LOCAL fast-food giant Jollibee Foods Corp. has restructured an P850-million fixed-term loan secured from Citibank N.A. last year to help fund the construction of its integrated production facility in Laguna.

Jollibee chief financial officer Jose Miguel Navarette said the fixed-term loan was converted to a floating rate loan "to take advantage of the prevailing low interest rates."

He said the conversion would result in savings of about 400 basis points in debt servicing for Jollibee, or about P7 million to P8 million in quarterly amortization.

The principal amount is also expected to go down this quarter, as Jollibee is scheduled to start making principal payments, Navarette said.

The loan, originally subjected to a fixed annual interest of 11.91 percent, is payable in 15 consecutive equal quarterly installments starting September this year until March 2005.

The loan agreement provides certain restrictions and requirements with respect to:

- Creating any new liens on Jollibee's existing properties;
- Granting advances to or investing in any person or entity, selling, leasing, transferring all or substantially all of its properties and assets or any significant portion thereof;
- Consolidating or merging with any other corporation;
- Declaring dividends after default or in an amount greater than the parent company's net income of the proceeding year; and,
- Maintenance of certain financial ratios.

Jollibee availed of the loan to fund the construction of its third commissary and other capital investments.

As of end-2001, Jollibee's debt-to-equity ratio or gearing stood at only 69 percent, which meant that for every P1 equity put into the company, it had a 69-centavo debt. Overall, Jollibee's consolidated liabilities stood at P3.01 billion.

On the other hand, cash flows stood at P1.63 billion as of end-2001, or 7.6 percent higher than the level in 2000.

For this year, Jollibee, which also owns the "Chowking," "Greenwhich" and "Delifrance" brands, is expecting the consumer market to remain sluggish in the first semester but is hoping for a recovery in the second semester.

The group plans to focus on growing its revenue base, improving its operating execution and containing costs in light of the challenging economic situation. It also plans to maintain its quick service restaurant expansion program, although at a slower pace than in 2001.

SEC approves PNB's capital increase to ₱50B

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has approved the Philippine National Bank's increase in its authorized capital from P33.333 billion to P50 billion in line with the bank's quasi-reorganization under a rehabilitation program.

The national government and the group of tobacco magnate Lucio Tan signed in May this year a memorandum of agreement providing for the rehabilitation of PNB.

Under the agreement, P23.9 billion of outstanding advances of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. were settled through payment in kind of P10 billion worth of government loans, conversion of P7.8 billion into convertible preferred shares at P40 per share and stretching of the remaining to a 10-year period at quarterly repricing based on 91-day treasury bill rates plus one percentage point.

In a statement, the SEC said that, at first, PNB decreased the par value of its shares from P60 per share to P40, decreasing the bank's authorized capital from P50 billion to P33.333 billion. The bank then increased its authorized capital back to P50 billion divided into 1,054,824,557 common shares and 195,175,444 preferred shares both with a par value of P40.

The decrease in capital was part of the bank's quasi-reorganization and equity restructuring, while the increase in capital was made in line with the debt-to-equity conversion segment of the rehabilitation program.

As a result, PNB's capital base increased to roughly P22 billion while diluting Tan's and bringing up the government's stake in PNB to 45 percent. Therefore, Tan's group and the government would share management control of the bank.

The SEC noted that the decrease and increase in capital stock effectively reduced the foreign ownership of the bank from approximately 29 to 19 percent.

PNB president Lorenzo Tan earlier said he aimed to turn the bank around, which had been bleeding for the past few years, in three to four years.

Tan also said he would try to reduce the bank's cost by raising the amount of low cost deposits from P50 billion to P60 billion in the next two years and increase the number of depositors to 5 million.

PNB would develop its "good bank" by improving the volume of remittances, which amounted to $3.2 billion last year.

It will also aggressively sell bad assets, including its Roxas Boulevard headquarters, which has an area of 85,000 square meters.

Sans tax windfall, gov't won't stay afloat, says solon

By Jo Clemente
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CAPAS, Tarlac—If government revenue collection agencies do not deliver a windfall in the next few months, the government will be faced with a dilemma on how to keep itself afloat.

The options, according to Tarlac Rep. Jesli Lapus, are to increase the budget deficit and resort to borrowings and to maintain the P130-billion budget deficit and declare what is termed in the Local Government Code as an "unmanageable public sector deficit."

This can be invoked by President Macapagal-Arroyo based on recommendations of the secretaries of finance, budget and management, and interior and local government in consultation with the heads of both houses of Congress, Lapus said.

In this state, only the statutory obligations of the government will be paid, such as salaries of employees, he said. This means, too, that the internal revenue allotments of local government units used for their community development projects will be reduced or not given at all, he said.

Lapus said this was a scenario that the government would have to deal with based on the level of revenues being collected against projections for the year.

The budget deficit for the first half has reached P120 billion, and the remaining P10 billion for the balance of the year does not leave much room, he said.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue has a collection shortfall of P33.46 billion while the Bureau of Customs has a shortfall of P9.11 billion.

"Should this happen, we have to face the problem squarely," said Lapus, vice chair of the House committees on appropriation and ways and means.

He recommended the implementation of remedial measures that would deliver the needed money to continue government services.

Foremost of these measures is to undertake a 30-percent compromise agreement for the more than P90 billion in tax delinquencies that the BIR is trying to collect.

He also recommended the collection of duties and taxes on the 5,000 units of luxury vehicles impounded at the Subic freeport. Duties from these importations can easily fetch half a billion pesos, he said.

The changing of values of taxability of imports from home-based consumption to self-declaration should also be reviewed given the current level of "maturity" of the tax-paying public, he said.

Lapus said a review of the books and the record keeping systems of various agencies in charge of government finances should be done.

"There's too much garbage. These books should be cleaned up and we have to start on a clean slate," he said.

He noted that no one was accountable for these records, as he cited P33 billion in unliquidated cash advances or a P260-billion unliquidated obligation that remained payable.

"How much of this is true, how much is bloated, how much is fraudulent?" he asked.

Asked to choose between the two options should government spending reaches its P130-billion deficit earlier than it should, Lapus opted for increasing the deficit through borrowings.

AyalaPort, mSSI sign agreement

Abigail L. Ho

CERTIFICATION authority mySecureSign Inc. (mSSI), a subsidiary of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., has forged a partnership with AyalaPort Makati Data Center to offer enhanced security for e-business transactions.

"This agreement is geared toward the development of e-commerce in the Philippines. We want to make digital certificates available to all companies in the Philippines," mSSI general manager Luis Gopez said in a statement yesterday.

With the passage of the e-Commerce Law, digital signatures on digital certificates are now recognized as legally binding.

Digital certificates are documents signed online that can be issued to a company's buyers, suppliers, customers and employees to give them access to sensitive information as well as signify binding and non-repudiable online transactions.

These certificates establish credentials when doing business or other transactions on the worldwide web and are issued by a certification authority like mSSI, the first and only in the country.

Gopez said even the government recognized the need for secure e-commerce and e-transactions in the country. This then made the mSSI infrastructure and its partnership with the Ayala-owned information technology firm more important as the tandem would also be capable of servicing the rest of the Southeast Asian region, not only the Philippines, he said.

Chinatrust first-half income up 166%

CHINATRUST (Philippines) Commercial Bank Corp., one of the country's fastest growing banks, posted a 166-percent surge in net income to P310.88 million in the first six months of the year due to significant trading and investment gains coupled with prudent spending.

Chinatrust president Joey Bermudez said the positive six-month income bolstered the likelihood that the bank would easily surpass its full-year income target of P370 million.

"Our home loan product is doing very well, and we're introducing more exciting products in the next few months. These give us a reason to be optimistic for the rest of the year," Bermudez said.

Chinatrust started rolling out unique and need-focused retail banking products and services in the second quarter with the introduction of a one-of-a-kind housing loan promo in April that offers zero interest on the last five years of a 15-year loan among other incentives.

Bermudez said the housing loan promo, called Five@Zero, generated almost P600 million in new loans as of end-July, and bookings were expected to reach P1 billion by year-end.

"With our specialized skills and strategic global links, we would like to be recognized as a product and service innovator that empowers clients by offering them wider choices and creating real value for them," he stressed.

Total loans of Chinatrust expanded by more than P1 billion to P9 billion as of end-June, a 14-percent jump from the P8 billion recorded as of end-2001. The bank managed to keep its non-performing loans at 7.9 percent of total loans despite the aggressive expansion in consumer loans.

Chinatrust also hopes to beef up its deposits with a flagship comprehensive deposit product offering that will be unveiled soon. The bank is expecting its deposit base to grow 30 percent this year from P10.59 billion at the end of 2001.

Chinatrust is a subsidiary of Chinatrust Commercial Bank of Taiwan, the most profitable private commercial bank in the island nation.

Aside from the Philippines, Chinatrust Taiwan also has presence through foreign branches in Hong Kong, India, Paraguay, the United States and Japan. It has also subsidiaries in Indonesia and Canada. Recently, three representative offices were opened in the United Kingdom, Vietnam and Thailand.

DOE still gathering IPP info, says Perez

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE REMAINING six weeks that President Macapagal-Arroyo gave the Department of Energy to review the contracts with independent power producers could be used up only for deeper research rather than actual negotiations, Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said.

Perez said the DOE was "still in the information-gathering stage."

"No negotiations have started yet," Perez said in an interview. "We are still asking the IPPs more information and clarifications on the issues that have been raised about their contracts."

He added that his team was also coordinating with the National Power Corp. for related data.

He said Napocor was not part of the Malacañang-appointed inter-agency committee that conducted a preliminary review of the contracts, although the state firm started the process.

Napocor officials said late last year the firm could not continue the review since it was party to the contracts. They said results of the review might not be credible because of this.

The DOE, along with the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp., was tasked to cover 22 of 29 contracts that did not pass cleanly the inter-agency committee's review.

Of these, 11 passed the review but had some financial issues that needed to be addressed to ensure that government and the public "are not being financially prejudiced," Perez said.

These are the contracts for the Navotas gas turbine Units 1-3, Mindanao power barges, Ormat binary cycle, Iligan I diesel, Iligan II diesel, Subic diesel, Bauang diesel, Bataan Epza plant, San Pascual cogeneration, Ilijan natural gas and Mindanao geothermal.

Eleven more contracts have some financial issues that "may require renegotiation of the financial terms," according to Perez.

These cover the Pagbilao coal, Pinamucan diesel, Leyte-Cebu geothermal, Naga coal, Leyte-Luzon geothermal, Mindanao I geothermal, Malaya thermal, Zamboanga diesel, General Santos diesel, Bakun hydroelectric and Mindanao coal.

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BANKS					
Banco De Oro Univ. Bank	15.75	16	15.75	16	312,600
Bank of the Phil. Islands	45.5	45.5	45	45	399,600
Chinatrust Comm. Bank	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	3,000
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	28.5	28.5	28	28	596,600
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	36.5	37	36.5	36.5	317,200
Philippine National Bank	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	100
Phil. Savings Bank	26	26	26	26	1,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	10	10.75	10	10.75	2,900
Security Bank Corp.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	5,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	19	19	18.75	18.75	11,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.16	1.2	1.16	1.2	94,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.32	0.32	30,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1210	1215	1210	1215	1,680
Sun Life Financial Serv.	935	940	935	935	1,890
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	21.75	22	21.75	22	28,400
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.56	0.56	0.55	0.55	120,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	495	495	495	495	100
Island Info And Tech Inc.	0.032	0.033	0.032	0.033	1,000,000
Ism Communications Corp.	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	100,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.85	24,000
Piltel	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	1,380,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	300	302.5	295	300	130,190
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	64,100,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	18.75	19	18.75	19	82,700
Manila Electric Co. B	29.5	30	29.5	30	1,000,400
Petron Corp.	1.68	1.7	1.68	1.7	574,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.74	1.76	1.74	1.74	88,384,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	10,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.48	2.55	2.48	2.55	1,943,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.68	0.68	0.67	0.67	2,070,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45	85,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	300,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	10,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.22	2.22	2.22	2.22	1,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.25	13.25	56,200
San Miguel Corp. A	49	49	48.5	49	1,184,500
San Miguel Corp. B	54	54.5	54	54	308,000
Universal Robina Corp.	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	13,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	4,280,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.5	846,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.28	2.3	2.28	2.3	31,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	320,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	12.25	12.75	12.25	12.5	881,500
Ionics, Inc.	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	17,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.6	0.61	0.6	0.61	330,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	10,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	1,710,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	70,000
Metro Alliance Holdings-B	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	120,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.33	260,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	300,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	22	22	22	22	349,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	3,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.1	6.2	6.1	6.2	8,055,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.2	0.21	1,330,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.18	0.18	0.16	0.16	9,820,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	500,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.96	1.96	1.92	1.96	4,250,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.82	1.82	1.78	1.8	70,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	70,000
Mrc Allied Ind. Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	10,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	500,000
SM Development Corp.	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	20,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6	6.1	6	6.1	5,116,000
MINING					
Omico Corp.	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	10,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.017	0.018	0.017	0.018	9,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	920,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	.0110	.012	.011	.012	1,200,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	.0028	.0028	.0026	.0026	220,000,000
Pacifica	.0120	.012	.012	.012	900,000
South China Resources Inc.	.6000	.7	.6	.7	270,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,778,570	55,831,265.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	172,531,990	337,933,200.00
PRO	29,741,000	90,996,800.00
Mining	19,920,000	445,800.00
OIL	222,370,000	773,600.00
GRAND TOTALS :	446,341,560	485,980,665.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	451.55	UP 0.09
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,555.10	UP 15.27
PRO	547.18	UP 8.39
Mining	1,090.61	UNCH 0.00
OIL	1.54	UP 0.07
All Shares Index	649.17	UP 4.67
Composite	1,143.57	UP 10.48

NO. OF ADVANCES: 40; NO. OF DECLINES: 10; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 24; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 74 NO. OF TRADES: 1,445

DISCLOSURES

BENPRES Holdings Corp. reported an unaudited net loss of P80 million for the first six months of 2002.

* * *

OMICO Corp. appointed David Kho as compliance officer following the approval of the company's manual of corporate governance. The board also approved the creation of an audit committee with members Wilfrido Sanchez, Antonio Evangelista and Juana Lourdes Buyson. Another committee formed was compensation and remuneration committee with members Felicisimo Feria, Reynaldo Guevara and Nelson Co.

* * *

IVANTAGE Corp. sold its entire stake in **I-Remit Inc.** to JTKC Equities Inc., Surewell Equities Inc. and JPSA Global Services Co. for a total of P50.9 million.

* * *

UNIVERSAL Rightfield Property Holdings Inc. moved its annual stockholders' meeting from Aug. 30 to a date that has yet to be finalized.

* * *

EXPORT and Import Bank (formerly Urban Bank Inc.) will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Sept. 12, 8:30 a.m., at the G/F, Export Bank Plaza, Makati City. Shareholders of record as of Aug. 22 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

Aug. 16, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.018226	1.000000	51.8240
Japan	Yen	0.008678	0.008523	0.4417
United Kingdom	Pound	1.562774	1.534800	79.5395
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.130544	0.128207	6.6442
Switzerland	Franc	0.683648	0.671411	34.7952
Canada	Dollar	0.653086	0.641396	33.2397
Singapore	Dollar	0.583177	0.572738	29.6816
Australia	Dollar	0.553986	0.544070	28.1959
Bahrain	Dinar	2.701009	2.652661	137.4715
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.271520	0.266660	13.8194
Brunei	Dollar	0.580881	0.570483	29.5647
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000115	0.000113	0.0059
Thailand	Baht	0.024365	0.023929	1.2401
UAE	Dirham	0.277242	0.272279	14.1106
Korea	Won	0.000865	0.000850	0.0441
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.982100	50.8964
Argentina	Real	0.280503	0.275482	14.2766
Brazil	Real	0.318694	0.312989	16.2203
Denmark	Kroner	0.134597	0.132188	6.8505
India	Rupee	0.020982	0.020606	1.0679
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.267990	0.263193	13.6397
Mexico	New Peso	0.102705	0.100867	5.2273
New Zealand	Dollar	0.475318	0.466810	24.1920
Norway	Kroner	0.134622	0.132212	6.8518
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017170	0.016863	0.8739
South Africa	Rand	0.096168	0.094447	4.8946
Sweden	Kroner	0.108090	0.000850	0.0441
Syria	Pound	0.019810	0.106155	5.5014
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.030323	0.029780	1.5433
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000743	0.000730	0.0378

US factories boost output, lift spirits on economy

NEW YORK—Fears of a return to recession in the United States receded yesterday as fresh data showed US factories, mines and power plants boosted output 0.2 percent in July.

Economists took heart from news that manufacturers edged up production 0.1 percent as factories rolled out cars for a rush of buyers, lured by low prices and no-interest payment plans.

The upbeat atmosphere was reflected on the stock market, where share prices climbed in mixed trading, in part buoyed by hundreds of corporate bosses swearing that their company accounts are true.

The Dow Jones industrials average climbed 0.86 percent to 8,818.14, while the tech-heavy Nasdaq index rose 0.80 percent to 1,345.01. The wider Standard and Poor's 500 index, more representative of the market as a whole, was up 10.62 points, or 1.15 percent, to 930.24.

Many experts had feared factories would cut production in July after a slew of grim figures for the month, including a weak jobs report showing unemployment at 5.9 percent.

Business activity, however, slumped in the mid-Atlantic region in August, the first negative reading this year, the Philadelphia Federal Reserve Bank announced.

The index fell to -3.1 in August from 6.6 in July, the bank said. A reading below zero signals economic contraction.

The decline was much larger than anticipated, as Wall Street analysts had expected the index to fall slightly to 5.6. The business activity survey covers manufacturers in most of Pennsylvania and southern New Jersey. But the production figures, which followed news of a 1.2-percent gain in retail sales for the same month, helped to lift hopes for a brighter economic outlook. *AFP*

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SCIENCE/HEALTH

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang** ◉ *Assistant Editor* **Stella O. Gonzales**

How to manage asthma attacks

By Tessa R. Salazar

DO NOT take asthma attacks lightly. A severe attack can be fatal and even seemingly manageable asthma attacks can become severe, full-blown, "near-fatal" ones.

According to Dr. Raoul Villarete, head of the public health and domiciliary unit of the Lung Center of the Philippines, the hospital has treated a number of asthmatic patients who had "arrest attacks."

"Some of them did not follow (doctors') instructions or did not comply with (the requirements of their) medications. Most of them wait for the attack. That's the only time they start taking their medications," Villarete said.

"The common mistake of people with asthma is that they seek medical help a little too late. They think it's just a cough," he said.

Villarete said asthmatics rely too much on their inhalers. They don't realize that if their attacks become more frequent, it means that there is inflammation and they need anti-inflammatory medication.

"Inhalers are supposed to be rescue medications only," said Dr. Madeleine Sumpaico, a pediatric allergologist and chair of the National Asthma Movement.

Dr. Teresita de Guia, head of the pulmonary and critical medicine division of the Philippine Heart Center, said many asthmatics rely more on the short-relief type of medication and are not concerned with prevention.

DR. Teresita de Guia shows how the diskhaler is used.

ROGER CARPIO

Airap study

She said 94 percent of Filipino asthmatics who responded to the Asthma Insights and Reality in Asia Pacific (Airiap) study used short-acting relief treatments.

The Airiap study was conducted from September to December 2000 and was based on a sample of 3,200 asthmatics from China, Hong Kong, Korea, Malaysia, Vietnam, Singapore, Taiwan and the Philippines.)

De Guia advised asthmatics who experience severe attacks to take inhaled corticosteroids daily or as instructed by the doctor because this could prevent severe attacks and unnecessary trips to the intensive care unit (ICU).

Identifying asthma triggers is equally important and learning what your specific triggers are can help control your asthma.

Allergy shots

Other asthmatics resort to allergy shots administered by doctors. Repeated shots can stop the triggers from causing allergic reactions.

Sumpaico said that in children, allergies are one of the common causes of asthma. Dust mites, cockroaches, pets and molds are often the culprits. Outside the home, pollens, trees and weeds can cause attacks.

There are different types of asthma medications that can prevent attacks or serve as emergency treatments.

Anti-inflammatory inhalers prevent asthma attacks. If taken daily, they prevent asthma symptoms. There is better airflow, less sensitive airways, less airway damage and generally fewer asthma attacks.

Anti-inflammatory medication include corticosteroids (inhaled and oral), mast cell stabilizers and leukotriene modifiers.

Inhaled corticosteroids are more popular than oral forms of corticosteroids. De Guia said this is because people dislike the supposed side effects of the oral drug. It is said that long-term use of the drug leads to acne, a strong appetite, weight gain, bone loss and slow growth.

Rescue medications

Doctors recommend keeping bronchodilators as rescue medications to rapidly open airways during emergencies. Bronchodilators relax the muscle bands that tighten around the airways.

Inhaled medications can be taken through metered dose inhalers, dry powder inhalers and nebulizers, while oral medications come in pills and liquid form.

A metered dose inhaler gives the lungs a puff of medication in measured doses. If a person is having difficulty with an inhaler, a spacer improves the delivery of medication to the lungs.

Dry powder inhalers are inhaled directly through the mouth using specially developed devices such as the diskus or diskhaler.

Action plan

Asthmatics should consider having an asthma action plan developed by a health care provider.

"If you are armed with education, you lessen and avoid unscheduled visits and hospitalizations," said Villarete.

He said there are now fewer emergency asthma cases because more asthmatics are using medication, like inhaled corticosteroids, that last longer.

Asthma clinics and clubs have also been a great help, he said.

Asia's persistent haze: a regional health threat

By Charles E. Buban

HAVE you ever heard of the Asian Brown Cloud?

According to the biggest scientific study of the phenomenon, this brownish layer of pollutants and particles hovering most of the year over South, Southeast and East Asia may be causing premature deaths of a half-million people in India each year, deadly flooding in some areas and drought in others.

The grimy cocktail of soot, sulfates, nitrates, organic particles, fly ash and mineral dust, ash, soot, acids and other damaging airborne particles is the result of forest fires, burning of agricultural wastes and dramatic increases in the burning of fossil fuels in vehicles, factories and waste incineration.

According to the United Nations Environment Program, which sponsored the study, the discovery of the South Asian haze is a clear evidence of the magnitude of the pollution problem. The report is largely based on the studies of the Indian Ocean Experiment team of over 200 scientists from Europe, India and the United States that studied the impact of the haze on regional temperatures, precipitation, agriculture and health.

Dense cloud

The haze contains relatively high concentrations of gases, including carbon monoxide, various organic compounds and sulfur dioxide, providing evidence that it is caused by pollution.

The dense cloud cuts the amount of sunlight reaching the ground and the oceans by 10 to 15 percent, cooling the land and water while heating the atmosphere. This phenomenon appears to have altered the region's monsoon rains by increasing rainfall and flooding in Bangladesh, Nepal and northeastern India, while cutting back needed seasonal precipitation in Pakistan and northwestern India. Floods, drought, sunlight reduction and acid rain can affect agricultural yield, and the report indicated that pollution might be cutting India's winter rice harvest by as much as 10 percent.

Premature deaths

The report suggests that the haze could be causing "several hundreds of thousands" of premature deaths as a result of higher levels of respiratory diseases in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

There is concern that the regional and global impact of the haze will intensify in the next 30 years as the Asian population rises to an estimated five billion. Scientists involved in the study believe the haze could also impact globally because pollution parcels like this one, which stretches three kilometers high, can travel half the world in a week.

Studies indicate that the number of fatalities is rising along with the levels of pollution. The World Bank estimated that in 1991-1992 40,000 people died from air pollution caused by particulate matter in 36 cities in India. In each of the 23 cities with more than a million population, air pollution levels exceeded the World Health Organization standards.

In 1995, the same study reported that the total number of deaths due to pollution went up to 52,000.

Several studies have linked particulate matter to a wide range of adverse health effects, including increased risk of being hospitalized for pneumonia, heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, adverse cardiovascular consequences and exacerbation of asthma.

Making mountains out of anthills

By Massie K. Santos
Contributor

DID YOU know that science declared war on ants decades ago? That to get rid of them one merely had to, literally, name their poison?

People have come up with various chemical means of eradicating ants from the planet when squashing them with a newspaper or a rubber slipper didn't suffice.

One can use a medicine dropper and pour a thin line of isopropyl alcohol over the ants and then set them on fire—and they'd be dead within seconds.

(This, of course, should not be done by children and should only be tried outside the house, preferably on concrete with nothing flammable within reach—although alcohol has such a low burning point that it burns itself out in just a few seconds.) Most people think this method is barbaric and inhumane—no one seems to mention dangerous—which is why they'd rather use ant traps or insecticides that contain a variety of chemicals to get rid of annoying ants.

One of the most popular chemicals is propoxur, also known as the active ingredient in Baygon and other similar roach killers. Insects take the chemical from the traps and bring it back to the colonies, where their companions eat the chemical and suffer intense (it's been tested on guinea pigs) stomach cramps, vomiting, diarrhea, dizziness, loss of vision and even affect brain function. A cholinesterase inhibitor, propoxur affects the metabolism of fats and proteins.

Death, when it finally comes is a relief.

And people thought chemical warfare was new.

Other chemicals

Borax (hydrated sodium borate) is another popular active chemical in ant traps. Used in various cleaning products and found in fiberglass, the chalky crystals have the same effect on the ants as propoxur.

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

Hydromethylnon is a more toxic chemical that affects ants differently. It has been shown to shrink the testes in animals that are larger than ants. (It's too hard to use ants as test subjects; they're too small. But the effect should be the same.) It's not carcinogenic and doesn't affect humans, although it may irritate the eyes or nasal passages if one comes into contact with fairly large quantities of the chemical, which isn't very likely because only a few milligrams of hydromethylnon is used in insecticide or ant trap.

It should be pointed out that all the chemicals listed here have been shown to have little or no effect on humans if the products containing them are used correctly.)

Natural substances

The only two naturally occurring ant killers are diatomaceous earth and pyrethrum.

Diatomaceous earth is actually powdered sea creature fossils that have crystallized over time. The dust is picked up by the hair on the ant's body, and burrows through the wax layers. When it penetrates the body, the ant loses water and eventually dies of dehydration. Not a very pleasant way to go.

Pyrethrum, on the other hand, is the active compound in chrysanthemum oil. Synthetic compounds similar to it, called pyrethroids, are known to attack the insect's liver and break down its immune system. They have minimal or no effect on humans.

Now, take a moment to think about the researchers dedicated to figuring out exactly what these chemicals do to various species and how exactly the chemicals work.

If people were ants and these chemicals were used on them, this would be considered biological warfare and terrorism of the worst kind. Nations would rise and sign treaties banning their use—although the United States would probably hold out because many of these products come from its companies. (This was the reason it didn't ratify the Kyoto Protocol.)

Nobody deserves to die a slow death, not even insects like ants.

So, does anyone have some alcohol and a match?

(The author can be reached at massie@massie.com.)

Frenchman explores polar ice caps in a special capsule

JEAN-LOUIS Etienne, doctor and adventurer, is about to complete his "pack ice mission"—a three-month journey between the North Pole and Greenland while adrift on a tiny capsule.

The 56-year-old explorer who had previously walked to the North Pole had this time undertaken a "motionless journey," as he described it, drifting in the Arctic Ocean over a distance of 500 kilometers on board the Polar Observer.

The Polar Observer, a pod that reminds one of the Apollo space capsule and especially built for this experiment, looks like a tiny speck floating in the gigantic ocean, which measures 13 million square kilometers, 3,000 to 5,000 meters deep and whose ice crust is two or three meters thick.

Around the capsule, there is a permanent cracking and creaking noise of the moving pack ice as its blocks collide and its surface breaks up.

In the nine-square-meter futuristic "igloo," Etienne travels five to 15 km a day, depending on the speed of the ocean current. He describes his journey as "rather without realizing it, like that on an ice travelator."

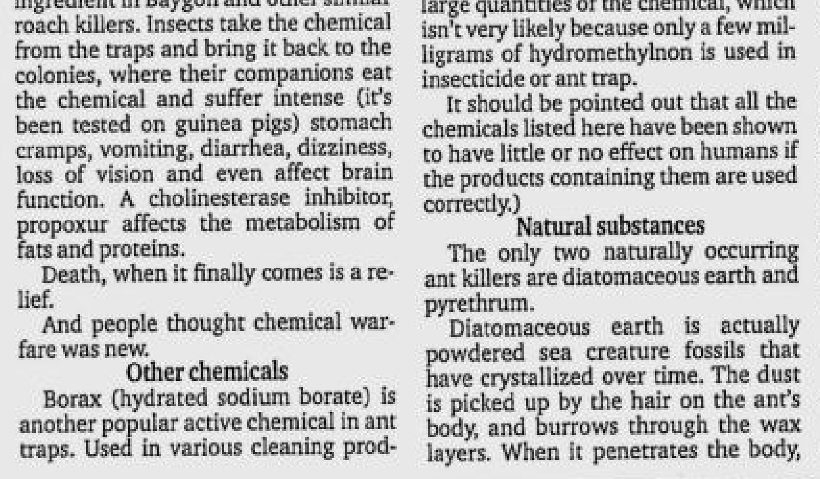
Etienne has a busy schedule in his extraordinary adventure. He observes the pack ice, takes photos, measures the salinity, temperature and thickness of the ice a thousand meters below, studies the currents and the atmosphere, measures infrared and ultraviolet radiation and fishes for plankton.

Researchers are counting on his observations and scientific readings of the Arctic ecosystem to gain a better understanding of our climate. It is known that the pack ice has been getting thinner over the last 30 years. The news his observations will bring may not be good, but it will be very precious.

Long list of achievements

Partly, it was the alarming situation of our planet that convinced Etienne to set off once more for the North Pole.

He already has an outstanding list of achievements—a world tour with sailor Eric Tabarly, the ascent of several peaks including Everest and a journey to Greenland. He also had countless expeditions to the North Pole—he was the first man to reach it alone on foot on May 6, 1986 after walking 1,200 km for 63 days. Three years later, he crossed the Antarctic plateau on a dogsled. After that, on board his boat the Antarctica, Etienne wintered in the Spitsbergen ice in 1995 and 1996.



THREE MONTHS ADRIFT. Etienne surveys the Arctic aboard the Polar Observer, a specially designed environment-friendly pod.

FRENCH EMBASSY

Etienne had long dreamed of following in the footsteps of 19th century Norwegian explorer Fridtjof Nansen who, on board the ship Fram, had drifted for three years without managing to reach the North Pole.

The 800-kg Polar Observer was built by a company in Toulouse in the south of France. The capsule has black fiberglass facets to capture the sun's rays. Its sides are insulated with 15-cm polyester foam.

Etienne wanted to use only clean or renewable sources of energy, so the research department of Gaz de France, the French national energy distribution company, developed a stove and heating to provide the capsule a temperature of 15 degrees Celsius. (Outside the pod it is -35 degrees Celsius). The natural gas is stored in three carbon cylinders fitted in the hold.

The computer, transmitter, on-board electronics and measuring instruments are supplied with electricity from a prototype fuel pile running on hydrogen which supplies the lithium batteries and can take over from the 10 75-watt solar panels.

The National Scientific Research Center, laboratories, industrialists and the Midi-Pyrenees Regional Council financed the 1.3-million euro undertaking.

Sylvie Thomas-Barbe, contributor

Malpractice law will add to rising medical cost

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD, FPCP, FPCC, MBA

MEDICAL FILES

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

THERE is a raging debate on the proposed medical malpractice bill. Will it be beneficial to the Filipino people or will it just add to the already high cost of medical care?

By definition, medical malpractice is the result of negligence, in which the physician does not perform up to medical standards. This so-called negligence is believed to be the case of serious physical injury and/or wrongful death.

Can an unanticipated, unfavorable or unsuccessful outcome of medical treatment or surgery be considered medical malpractice? To have a strong malpractice case, a doctor must have acted in an unacceptable manner when compared to other similarly trained doctors.

But how could one determine if a doctor fell short of the standards set by his colleagues? What gauge will be used to measure if the doctor acted against the interest of his patient? Is it possible for a doctor to willfully desire to harm or kill his patient—an intent which would make him deserve the death penalty like criminals who commit heinous crimes?

Defensive medicine

Doctors will then have to practice defensive medicine to protect themselves, but the cost, of course, will have to be shouldered by patients.

Should one consult a physician for what is likely to be just a migraine headache, an expensive CT scan will be requested, just to be sure. For a case of the flu, a battery of tests to rule out all sorts of infectious diseases will be legally necessary. For a slight tinge of blood in the stools due to hemorrhoids, the doctor will have to request for a colonoscopy.

The cost of laboratory work-ups will be staggering, like those in countries where there are medical malpractice laws.

'Clinical eye'

The doctor will no longer practice his so-called "clinical eye" or clinical "gut feel"—the skill acquired over years of practice which makes a clinician reasonably confident to make a diagnosis by just taking the patient's history and physical examination with a minimum of laboratory tests.

Because there could be one or two chances in 10 that the "clinical eye" might be wrong, defensive medicine dictates that clinical "gut feel" would have to be validated by laboratory tests no matter how expensive these are.

Cost-effective practice of medicine will have to take a back seat and expensive examinations will be considered routine even for simple problems. In a country such as ours, a medical malpractice law will put a heavier burden on the already unaffordable cost of medical care.

Mixed reactions

The proposed medical malpractice bill was filed separately by House Minority Leader Constantino Jaraulla and Rep. Oscar Rodriguez. Members of the House of Representatives had mixed reactions to the issue.

For Rep. Ted Failon the bill could put an end to the unscrupulous acts of "rogues and scalawags in dainty, lily white uniforms."

For Rep. Reynaldo Uy, a practising physician, the proposed law would find fault even if the doctor observed correct medical procedures.

"Sometimes a human body does not react normally even if the best medical procedures are observed. In this case, should we penalize the doctor?" Representative Uy asks. He adds that no doctor who has taken the Oath of Hippocrates would act against the best interests of his patient.

Bad breaks

Dr. Lucian Leape of the Harvard School of Public Health believes that the problem of the medical community is not incompetence but bad breaks. He points out that 99 percent of doctors who have faced and are now facing malpractice suits are "good clinicians who made mistakes."

"Punishing doctors simply encourages them to cover up their errors. We need to shift the emphasis away from individuals," says Dr. Leape who is also a board member of the American Medical Association. He says errors are not actually the disease but are symptoms of the disease.

Doctors and nurses are only human, and they are more prone to error than other professional workers because their job requires them to work long hours, sometimes in double shifts.

Dr. Leape believes that the real culprit is poorly designed health care systems. This is true in public hospitals where medical facilities are either decrepit or deficient.

Poor handwriting

No doubt, physicians will have to shape up to avoid potential sources of error. We can start by improving our penmanship when writing prescriptions and orders on the medical chart.

In a recent survey in the United States, 42 percent of the respondents said they had been directly or indirectly affected by medical errors. The bulk of these mistakes were medication errors directly attributed to the physician's bad penmanship. This medical blunder is highly avoidable.

Many medical experts are proposing a computerized drug prescription system.

Dr. Leape believes that within five years, it should be a must for hospitals, clinics and pharmacies to have a computerized drug-tracking program that would allow a doctor or pharmacist to know exactly what drug was prescribed and given to a patient.

The system would also keep track of other drugs the patient is taking and would raise a red flag whenever there is a risk of dangerous drug interaction, a frequent cause of serious medical accidents. It would also alert the doctor if a patient is allergic or sensitive to certain types of medications.

Anesthesiology, a model

Dr. David Gaba, a California anesthesiologist, told US TV network ABC News that in the last 10 years, his field has become a good model of what could be done to avoid medical blunders.

Medical students are required to regularly practice using anesthesia on electronic mannequins. In the process, they are able to hone their skills even before they administer drugs to human patients.

Dr. Gaba also noted new checklists, safety procedures, dosage meters and other safeguards which anesthesiologists follow. The result is quite dramatic, making anesthesiology an average specialty in terms of liability from being a high-risk one.

Professional organizations like the Philippine Medical Association and the Philippine College of Physicians should be more active in policing their ranks to get rid of the few "rogues and scalawags in dainty lily white uniforms" who give the majority of competent and ethical practitioners a bad name.

These few unscrupulous physicians even heavily advertise in major broadsheets and are endorsed by top celebrities.

Some, for example, are claiming an effective regimen for weight loss. They prescribe potent reducing pills like Duromine and Ionamin at doses which are five to 10 times higher than the recommended safe dose. Their patients, attracted by the celebrity endorsements, come in droves. These trusting patients don't realize that they may be in for serious trouble that may be noted only after several months.

Medical records reviewed

The majority of medical malpractice cases in the United States are personal injury cases, which often require a review of personal medical records. A medical expert is asked to consult on the case and if, after a review of the records, the expert determines that malpractice led to the injury, a lawsuit can then be filed.

However, obtaining personal medical records is not an easy task. Medical records are the sole property of the health care provider and giving patients copies of this medical information would be suicide on the part of the physician. Every patient will then have to be considered a potential litigant.

A thorough examination of the proposed medical malpractice bill is necessary to ensure the passage of an unbiased and highly rational law that would not only protect the patient but also safeguard the doctor's rights as well.

Our lawmakers need to realize that doctors are humans, too. They are prone to committing occasional lapses or wrong calls, much like any other person. These are not necessarily blinders. After all, medicine is not an exact science. The human body is a temple of surprises. Even in the best hands, minds and facilities, some diseases and medical conditions simply do not behave as expected and may have fatal outcomes.

The doctor should not be expected to play God.

Gov't funds IT projects

(First of two parts)

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

LAST June 29, my column discussed what some government agencies are doing to develop information technology. Iloilo City technopreneur Timmy Arandela (tnda@yahoo.com) responds:

I would like to thank you for writing about what our government is doing in IT. Your information on what the Central Visayas Information Sharing Network has accomplished, aside from the ASTI achievements in using Linux in its network, will hopefully inspire others to replicate what CVISNET has done for its constituents. Can you feature more IT news? More power.

I am encouraged to note that the Department of Science and Technology has been spearheading IT efforts across the country in recent months. The following news bits have been culled from the March to June issues of the S and T Post sent by the Science Technology and Information Institute.

- **ICT Parks.** In line with President Macapagal-Arroyo's 2001-2004 medium-term development plan, around P12.9 billion worth of IT-related projects were approved by the Board of Investments in 2001, compared to P3.4 billion in 2000. Among these projects were Philweb.com Inc., AyalaPort and Easycall Communications Phils. Inc. The investments are expected to generate around 15,000 jobs. Investments in IT-related enterprises reached P1.9 billion in 2001 (from P1.2 billion in 2000). The continued growth can be attributed to the rapid development of economic zones around the country and the growth of IT-based firms in these estates.

Right now there are 13 ICT parks in Metro Manila and Cebu that offer competitive financial incentives for ICT business, with contact center operations, financial shared e-services or IT-enabled services and software development. These parks are Eastwood City Cyber Park (Quezon City), Northgate Cyber Zone (Alabang, Muntinlupa City), E-Square (Fort Bonifacio Global City, Taguig), RCBC Plaza IT Park (Makati City), CCTC IT Park (Cebu City), PBCom Tower (Makati City), Cebu Cyber Town IT Park (Mactan, Cebu), Bonifacio Information Special Technology Zone (Fort Bonifacio, Taguig), Robinsons Cyber Park (Mandaluyong City), Summit One Office Tower (Mandaluyong City), Araneta Cyber Center (Cubao, Quezon City), UP Science and Technology Parks (North and South in UP Diliman, Quezon City).

- **E-commerce Act.** The National Computer Center produced templates and conducted workshops to help government agencies go online and meet the requirements of the Electronic Commerce Act of 2000. According to director general Delfin Jay Sabido IX (who happens to be my good friend), compliance with the Act would result in faster transactions among government agencies and would aid citizens in accessing government websites.

The template for national agencies utilizes a website content management system, while that for local units uses HTML. Both have standard content, such as agency profile, aims and objectives, structure, statistical information, plans and projects.

A survey was also conducted to determine computer readiness of the agencies. Of 399 NGAs surveyed, 81 percent had websites, 10 percent were connected to the Internet but have no websites and 9 percent did not have Internet access. Of 110 provincial and city governments that were assessed, 52 percent had Internet connection and their own sites. Of 124 state universities and colleges, only 44 percent had websites.

The Center recently conducted a series of one-day workshops for website development and rendered technical assistance to participating agencies. It also temporarily hosts sites of government agencies that do not yet have the capacity to upload their own.

- **Tie-up with Intel.** Intel and the DOST recently cemented their partnership on advanced materials (powerful third-wave networking technologies) through the Philippine Council for Advanced Science and Technology Research and Development (PCASTRD).

Science Secretary Estrella Alabastro envisions that "by 2010, the Philippines should be in the regional leadership position in information and communication technology, biotechnology, material science and mechatronics." Intel quality manager Dr. Antonio Villaflor replies, "We need to ensure our readiness with the government and other sectors in creative ways."

A research project currently being funded involves the development of optoelectronic devices. A team of researchers from the UP National Institute of Physics led by Dr. Arnel Salvador aims to produce devices that are important components for fiber optic communication and local area networking. The first phase of the project was funded by PCASTRD and produced photodetectors and light emitting diodes as outputs. This success led to the current second phase. Intel is providing counterpart funds and supplies as well as access to its facilities. It supports M.S. and Ph.D. scholars in engineering and science.

(Next week: Mindanao IT developments)

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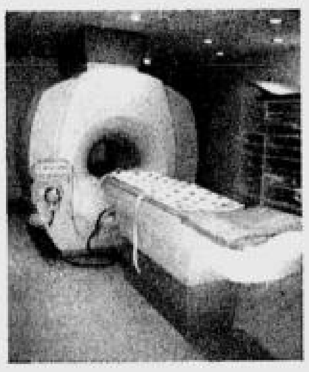

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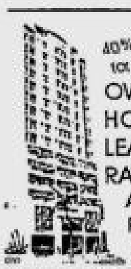

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Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
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Tel Nos. 743 8301 locals 1125, 1132, Fax (632) 743-1829, 743 1786, Direct 711-9502, 711 9503 osec@doh.gov.ph

REQUEST FOR QUOTATIONS

1. The Government of the Philippines has received loans from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Project (RWSSP) and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of these loans to payment under the contract for which this Request for Quotations is issued.
2. The Department of Health now requests price quotations for the supply and delivery of the following:

I. Package-A	
Water Laboratory Equipment	
1.1 Incubator	1 unit
1.2 Autoclave	1 unit
1.3 Distilling Apparatus	1 unit
1.4 Magnetic Stirrer	1 unit
II. Package-B	
Portable Water Test Kit	30 Kits
III. Package-C	
Laboratory Glasswares and Supplies	
3.1 Petri Dish	204 pcs.
3.2 Test Tube Rack (24 Holes)	204 pcs.
3.3 Test Tube Rack (60 Holes)	204 pcs.
3.4 Erlenmeyer Flasks (2 liters)	34 pcs.
3.5 Erlenmeyer Flasks (1 liter)	34 pcs
3.6 Erlenmeyer Flasks (100 ml)	102 pcs.
3.7 Beaker (1 liter)	34 pcs.
3.8 Beaker (600 ml)	34 pcs.
3.9 Beaker (250 ml)	102 pcs.
3.10 Test Tube (25 mm x 200 mm)	1,700 pcs.
3.11 Test Tube (15 mm x 150 mm)	3,400 pcs.
3.12 Test Tube (9 mm x 75 mm)	8,500 pcs.
3.13 Test Tube (6 mm x 50 mm)	8,500 pcs.
3.14 Cylinder (1 liter)	34 pcs.
3.15 Cylinder (500 ml)	34 pcs.
3.16 Cylinder (100 ml)	34 pcs.
3.17 Sampling bottles (120 ml Capacity)	850 btls.
3.18 Sampling Bottles (30 ml Capacity)	1,700 btls.
3.19 Pipets (10 ml)	510 pcs.
3.20 Pipets (5 ml)	340 pcs.
3.21 Pipets (1 ml)	1,700 pcs.
3.22 Pipets Container (8 cm D x 41 cm L)	51 pcs.
3.23 Wire Baskets (31 ml L x 17 cm H x 17 cm D)	34 pcs.
3.24 Wire Baskets (46 ml L x 17 cm H x 31 cm D)	34 pcs.
3.25 Funnel (14 cm D x 17 cm L)	17 pcs.
3.26 Theremomether	51 pcs.
3.27 Volumetric Flask (1 liter)	34 pcs.
3.28 Volumetric Flask (500 ml)	34 pcs.
3.29 Volumetric Flask (200 ml)	34 pcs.
3.30 Reagents Bottles (500 ml)	34 btls.
3.31 Reagents Bottles (250 ml)	51 btls.
3.32 Glass Rod (25 cm L)	51 pcs.
3.33 Rubber Bulb	17 pcs.
3.34 Innoculating Loop (3 mm Diameter)	34 pcs.
IV Package-D	
Laboratory Chemical and Media	
4.1 Lactose Broth Dehydrated (500 g/btl)	68 btls.
4.2 Peptone Broth, Dehydrated (500 g/btl)	17 btls.
4.3 Brillant Green Lactose Bile Broth, Dehydrated (500 g/btl)	64 btls.
4.4 E.C. Medium, Dehydrated (500 g/btl)	51 btls.
4.5 Nutrient Agar, Dehydrated (500 g/btl)	17 btls.
4.6 Ferric Ammonium Citrate Ar Grade (500 g/btl)	17 btls.
4.7 Di-Potassium Hydrogen Phosphate, AD Grade (500 g/btl)	17 btls.
4.8 Sodium Thiosulfate, Anhydrous, AR Grade (500 g/btl)	17 btls.
4.9 Teepol, Detergent (500 ml/btl) or equivalent	17 btls.
V. Package - E	
Chlorine Granules	6,000 kgs.
VI. Package - F	
Squat Type Plasic Toilet Bowls	50,000 pcs.

3. International shopping procedure will be conducted in accordance with ADB's procurement guidelines.
4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidder at the said address upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000), including mail fee for foreign supplier from August 22 to September 9, 2002. The method of payment may be cash of bank draft.
5. Quotations must be delivered to the address below on or before 2:00 p.m. on **September 11, 2002.**

Central Office Bids and Awards Committee (COBAC)
Department of Health
Building No. 3 San Lazaro Compound
Sta. Cruz, Manila
Philippines
Phone No. (632) 338-62-59 / 743-83-01 to 23 loc. 1338
Telefax No. (632) 743-72-38

6. Quotations must be accompanied by a Bid Security of not less than two (2) percent of the total Bid Price in the currency of the quotation or another freely covertible currency. Late quotations shall be rejected. Quotations will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representative who choose to attend at the above address, at 2:00 pm on **September 11, 2002.**
7. Prior to opening of quotations, a pre-bid conference will be held at the DOH COBAC Conference Room, Sta. Cruz, Manila at 2:00 p.m. on **August 28, 2002**.
8. The Department of Health will not be responsible for any cost or expenses incurred by the bidder in connection with the preparation or delivery of the quotations.
9. In the comparison of quotations, ADBs Domestic Preference Schema will be applied in accordance with the provisions stipulated in the Instruction to Bidders.
10. The Department of Health (DOH) reserves the right to accept or reject any quotation, and to annul the bidding process and reject all quotations at any time prior to contract Award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders and to waive any minor defects of infirmities therein and to accept such quotation as may be considered most advantageous to the government

(Sgd.) **ZENAIDA O. LUDOVICE, MD, MPH**
Assistant Secretary of Health
Chairperson
Central Office Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–Aug. 17 & 18, 2002)

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

CAREGIVER TRNG 5276418

TOEFL/TSE REVIEW 527-1590

AUCTION SALE

C.Y. Lopez Pawnshop Inc.
#15 GEN. SANTOS AVE., LOWER BICUTAN, TAGUIG; #602 JP RIZAL ST. MAKATI CITY; REAL ST. ALMANZA UNO LAS PINAS CITY will hold an Auction Sale on AUGUST 24, 2002 at 9:00A.M. including all items pawned up to MARCH 2002 V.Zamora Jr. Lic. Auctioneer

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PUBLIC NOTICES

To My Dearest Vanessa,

Pushing your car across Roxas Blvd., was THE SIGN! Happy First Year Anniversary. I love you honey.

Mr. H

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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0917-8371152

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of late RAMON J. BUENO was extrajudicially settled by his heirs with Deed of Absolute Sale as per Doc No. 560, Page No. 87, Book No. I, Series of 2002 before Notary Public Siegfred B. Mison of Quezon City.
PDI August 10,17 & 24, 2002

Notice is hereby given that the estate of LEONORA R. GARCIA was extrajudicially settled among her heirs as per Doc 118, Page 25, Book III, Series of 2001 Before Notary Public Federico Claudio G. Sandoval of Pasig
(PDI- Aug. 10,17 & 24 2002)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that Stock Certificate No. 1710 for 105 Shares issued to the Premier Insurance & Surety Corporation by National Reinsurance Corporation of the Philippines was reported lost.
(PDI-Aug. 17, 24 & 31, 2002)

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Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

RULES ON THE LIQUOR BAN IN CONNECTION WITH THE AUGUST 26, 2002 SPECIAL ELECTION FOR MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN THE FIRST DISTRICT OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE.
x--x

Chairman Benjamin S. Abalos, Sr.
Commissioner Luzviminda G. Tancangco
Commissioner Rufino S. B. Javier
Commissioner Ralph C. Lantion
Commissioner Mehol K. Sadain
Commissioner Resurreccion Z. Borra
Commissioner Florentino A. Tuason, Jr.
Promulgated: August 15, 2002

RESOLUTION NO. 5606

WHEREAS, the Omnibus Election Code of the Philippines provides:

Sec. 261. Prohibited Acts. - The following shall be guilty of an election offense:

XXX XXX XXX

"(dd) x x x (1) any person who sells, furnishes, offers, buys, serves or takes intoxicating liquor on the days fixed by law for the registration of voters in the polling place, or on the day before the election or on election day. Provided, that hotels and other establishments duly certified by the Department of Tourism as tourist-oriented and habitually in the business of catering to foreign tourists may be exempted for justifiable reasons upon prior authority of the Commission. Provided, That foreign tourist taking intoxicating liquor in said authorized hotels or establishments are exempted from the provisions of this sub-paragraph".

WHEREAS, violation of said prohibited acts shall be punishable with imprisonment of not less than one year but not more than six years and shall not be subject to probation, and in addition, the guilty party shall suffer disqualification to hold public office and deprivation of the right of suffrage;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Commission on Elections (Commission) pursuant to the powers vested in it by the Constitution, the Omnibus Election Code, and other election laws, has **RESOLVED** to promulgate, as it hereby promulgates, the following implementing rules:

SEC. 1. Prohibited Acts Period. - It shall be unlawful for any person, including owners and managers of hotels and establishments to sell, furnish, offer, buy, serve or take intoxicating liquor in the First District of Zamboanga del Norte on the day before the election (**August 25, 2002**) and on election day (**August 26, 2002**).

SEC. 2. Exemption. - Hotels and other establishments duly certified by the Department of Tourism as tourist-oriented and habitually in the business of catering to foreign tourists may be exempted from the liquor ban, PROVIDED they secure prior written authority from the officers enumerated in Sec. 3 hereof upon showing that there are justifiable reasons therefor.

Only foreign tourists taking intoxicating liquor in said authorized hotels or establishments are exempted from the prohibition.

SEC. 3. Where to apply for and secure exemption. - Applications for exemption, together with supporting documents, shall be filed with, and duly acted upon by the Provincial Election Supervisor of Zamboanga del Norte with respect to establishments located in the city/municipalities within the First District of Zamboanga del Norte.

SEC. 4. Conditions for the grant of exemptions. - Exemption may be granted only upon compliance and submission of the following:

a) Request/petition/application for exemption, under oath and containing a statement that the hotel/establishment operators/owners have not been convicted for an election offense;

b) Certification from the Department of Tourism stating that

1. the requesting hotel or establishment is tourist-oriented and habitually in the business of catering to foreign tourists;
2. said hotel or establishment is currently licensed to do business; and
3. the individual or establishment has paid the required taxes and/or fees imposed by the government or any of its agencies or instrumentalities.

SEC. 5. Revocation of exemption. - The exemption granted may be revoked or set aside by the Commission upon petition of any interested party on showing, among others, that the reason upon which the exemption was made does not exist or is not justifiable, or that the requesting party or applicant has committed misrepresentation in the application, or introduced or submitted falsified documents.

SEC. 6. Who shall implement. - The Philippine National Police (PNP), Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), National Bureau of Investigation, Regional Election Director and Assistant Regional Election Director of Region IX, Provincial Election Supervisor of Zamboanga del Norte, and Election Officers of the City/Municipalities of the First District of Zamboanga del Norte shall implement this resolution.

SEC. 7. Effectivity. - This resolution shall take effect immediately.

SEC. 8. Dissemination. - The Education and Information Department shall cause the immediate publication of this resolution in two (2) daily newspapers of general circulation and shall furnish copies thereof to the Department of Tourism, Association of Hotels and Restaurants, Regional Election Director and Assistant Regional Director of Region IX, Provincial Election Supervisor of Zamboanga del Norte, Election Officers of the City/Municipalities of the First District of Zamboanga del Norte, the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Philippine National Police, the National Bureau of Investigation and the accredited Citizens Arm of the Commission.

SO ORDERED.

BENJAMIN S. ABALOS, SR.
Chairman

LUZVIMINDA G. TANCANGCO
Commissioner

RUFINO S.B. JAVIER
Commissioner

RALPH C. LANTION
Commissioner

MEHOL K. SADAIN
Commissioner

RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Commissioner

FLORENTINO A. TUASON, JR.
Commissioner

(PDI - Aug. 17, 2002)

PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE DISPOSAL COMMITTEE
420th SW, Clark Air Base, Angeles City, Pampanga

NOTICE OF SALE BY PUBLIC BIDDING

The Philippine Air Force will receive sealed bids until **17 Sept, 2002, 2:00 P.M.** at **Conference Room of 420th Supply Wing**, Clark Air Base, Angeles City, Pampanga for the sale of the following unserviceable properties on **"as is, where is"** basis:

Lot Number / Description	LOCATION	MIN BID PRICE
Lot IB: Three T-28 acft carcasses 531, 704, 765	15th SW, Sangley Air Base, Cavite City	P60,000.00
Lot VB: Two S-76A acft carcasses 208 & 209	-do-	P40,000.00
Lot IVB: two (2) - S211 aircraft 806 & 810	Air Ads Corp, Andrews Avenue, Domestic Airport, Pasay	P18,000.00
Lot VIIB: assorted scrap of office eqpt	Disposal Yard, Basa Air Base, Floridablanda, Pampanga	P8,000.00
Lot 5-278-012: one (1) S-70A acft carcass	-do-	P12,000.00
Lot 5-208-008: one (1) UH-IH #755 carcass	-do-	P20,000.00
Lot 7-136-001: Four T-28 acft nrs 7560, 3644, 3658 and 7701	420th SW, Clark Air Base, Angeles City, Pampanga and 15th SW, Sangley Air Base, Cavite City – acft # 644	P4,320,305.00
Lot 5-283-022 – 10 T-28 engines with canister	Disposal Yard, Basa Air Base, Floridablanda, Pampanga	P3.5 M
Lot 5-283-023 – 8 T-28 engines w/out canister	-do-	P2.3 M
Lot 6-106-037 – 2 F-5 acft carcasses 323 & 505	-do-	P268,000.00
Lot 6-106-038: two (2) T-33 acft nrs. 454 & 100	-do-	P80,000.00
Lot 02-080-01: two (2) T-33 acft nrs 698 & 547	-do-	P12,000.00
Lot IID - assorted acft parts	-do-	P44,045.00
Lot IIID –assorted acft parts	-do-	P62,892.00
Lot I – 1: F-8H aircraft nr 302	420th SW, Clark Air Base, Angeles City, Pampanga	P1.5M
Lot I – 2: F-8H aircraft nr 307	-do-	P1.5M
Lot I – 3: F-8H aircraft nr 309	-do-	P1.5M
Lot I – 4: F-8H aircraft nr 311	-do-	P1.5M
Lot I – 5: F-8H aircraft nr 316	-do-	P1.5M
Lot I – 6: F-8H aircraft nr 317	-do-	P1.5M
Lot I – 7: F-8H aircraft nr 320	-do-	P1.5M
Lot I – 8: F-8H aircraft nr 322	-do-	P1.5M
Lot I – 9: consisting of the following: 8 units cannibalized acft carcasses; 19 units F-8H engines; 1 unit F-8H acft crashed; 10,669 Line items F-8H parts; 723 line items assorted tools and equipment.	Disposal Yard, Basa Air Base, Floridablanda, Pampanga	P1.5M

REMINDERS TO BIDDERS:

1. To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the bidding.
2. To submit bid in PAF official bid form.
3. Bid bond deposit is required in the form of cash or manager's check equivalent to ten percent (10%) of the bid price.
4. To be on time. No bids will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commence.
5. Buyers of F-8H aircraft and F-8H component items are required to submit an **"End Use - End User Certification"**
6. Additional information / request for inspection may be secured from the Disposal Unit, 420th SW, tel nr. (045) 599-2014/2015 loc. 6524
7. Pre-bid conference and Issuance of Bid Forms (P100.00 per set) will be on 12 Sept, 2002, 10:00 A.M. at 420th SW Conference Room, 420th SW, Clark Air Base, Angeles City, Pampanga

Inspection schedules will be as follows:

Items	Date	Time	Day	Location
T-28 & S-76 I carcasses	21 Aug – 06 Sept,2002,	9:00 A.M – 3:00 PM	Mon to-Fri	- SAO Office, 15th SW, Sangley Air Base, Cavite City
S-211 carcasses	26 Aug – 06 Sept,2002,	9:00 A.M – 3:00 PM	Mon to Fri	- 420th SW Liaison Off, Villamor Air Base,Pasay City
Blackhawk, T-33, Huey, aircraft carcasses, parts and other scrap	21 Aug – 11 Sept 2002,	9:00 A.M – 4:00 PM	Mon to Fri	Disposal Yard, Basa Air Base, Floridablanca, Pampanga
T-28 & F-8H aircraft	21 Aug –11 Sept, 2002,	9:00 A.M.– 4:00 PM	Mon to Sat	420 Supply Wing, Clark Air Base, A.C. Pampanga

PAF DISPOSAL COMMITTEE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY INFORMALITY FOUND THEREIN, AND TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE PAF.

PAF Disposal Committee

(Sgd.) **Col. CLAUDIO P ESTALILLA PAF (GSC)**
Wing Commander, 420th SW, PAF
Chairman

(PDI: Aug 17, 18, 19, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

RULES AND REGULATIONS ON: (A) BEARING, CARRYING OR TRANSPORTING FIREARMS OR OTHER DEADLY WEAPONS; (B) SECURITY PERSONNEL OR BODYGUARDS; (C) BEARING ARMS BY ANY MEMBER OF SECURITY OR POLICE ORGANIZATION OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND OTHER SIMILAR ORGANIZATION; (D) ORGANIZATION OR MAINTENANCE OF REACTION FORCES DURING THE ELECTION PERIOD IN CONNECTION WITH THE AUGUST 26, 2002 SPECIAL ELECTION FOR MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN THE FIRST DISTRICT OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE.
x--x

ABALOS, Benjamin S. Sr	Chairman
TANCANGCO, Luzviminda G.	Commissioner
JAVIER, Rufino S.B.	Commissioner
LANTION, Ralph C.	Commissioner
SADAIN, Mehol K.	Commissioner
BORRA, Resurreccion Z.	Commissioner
TUASON, Florentino A. Jr.	Commissioner

PROMULGATED:
15 August 2002

RESOLUTION NO. 5604

The Commission on Elections, by virtue of the power vested in it by the Constitution, the Omnibus Election Code, and other election laws, RESOLVED, to promulgate, as it hereby promulgates, the following rules and regulations to enforce the prohibited acts under Section 261, paragraphs (p), (q), (r), (s), (t) and (u) of the Omnibus Election Code and Sections 32 and 33 of Republic Act No. 7166, in connection with the August 26, 2002 Special election for member of the House of Representatives in the First District of Zamboanga del Norte.

SECTION 1. Declaration of policy. – It is the policy of the Commission on Elections (Commission) to prohibit during the election period the bearing, carrying and transporting of firearms or deadly weapons by any person, and not to allow the employment of security personnel or bodyguards.

SEC. 2. Prohibitions. – During the election period from August 14, 2002 to September 5, 2002 it shall be unlawful for:

(a) Any person, including those possessing a permit to carry firearms outside of residence or place of residence or place of business, to bear, carry or transport firearms or other deadly weapons in public places including any building, street, park, private vehicle or public conveyance. The term "firearm" includes airgun;
(b) Any member or officer of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police or any other law enforcement agency of the government, to bear firearms outside of their respective barracks, garrisons, camps, offices or such other military or police installations;
(c) Any candidate for public office, including incumbent officials seeking election to any public office or any other person, to employ, avail himself of or engage the services of security personnel or bodyguards, whether or not such, bodyguards are members or officers of the PNP, the AFP or any other law enforcement agency of the government;
(d) Any person to act as security personnel or bodyguard of any candidate or to authorize such assignment;
(e) Any member of security or police organization of government agencies, commissions, councils, bureaus, offices or government-owned or controlled corporations or privately-owned or operated security, investigative, protective or intelligence agencies, to bear firearms outside the immediate vicinity of his place of work; and
(f) Any person to organize or maintain reaction forces, strike forces or similar forces.

SEC. 3. Exceptions. – The prohibitions in Section 2 hereof shall not apply in the following instances:

(a) Officers or members of the AFP, PNP, or any law enforcement agency constituting the normal security personnel complement of the incumbent President, Vice President, Senate President, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Secretary of National Defense, Secretary of Interior and Local Government, Chief of Staff of the AFP and AFP Major Service Commanders, Director General of the PNP and senior officers thereof while in actual performance of their duties;

Senior officers shall include battalion commanders, group commanders, regimental commanders, brigade commanders, division commanders, and their equivalents in the Navy and Air Force, Specified Command and AFP-wide Service Support Units, and those higher in the hierarchy of the AFP including all active generals; and Provincial Directors, District Directors designated in the First District of Zamboanga del Norte, Regional Directors, and Directors of Intelligence operations and administrative units and other Directors, Deputy Director Generals, and Director General within the General Headquarters-PNP; and all members of the Committee on Firearms and Security Personnel constituted under Section 5 hereof;

(b) Regular officers or members of the AFP/PNP and other law enforcement agencies of the government, except those who are under suspension and those against whom administrative or criminal charges have been filed, provided that when in the possession of firearms the law enforcement officer must be; (1) in full uniform showing clearly and legibly his name, rank and serial number which shall remain visible at all times; (2) in the actual performance of duty in the specific area designated in the mission order approved by the Commanding General or officer of the unit; and (3) going to or returning from residence/barracks;
(c) Cashiers and disbursing officers while in the performance of their duties if authorized in writing by the Commission specifically when said persons transport or disburse payrolls or deposit or carry large sums of money or other valuables;
(d) Member of duly authorized security or police organizations of government agencies, commissions, councils, bureaus, offices or government-owned or controlled corporations or privately owned or operated security, investigative, protective or intelligence agencies in the actual performance in the specific area of their assignment of their duties with prior written authority from the Commission.

The exemption also applies to these personnel when:

1) Pursuing a person committing or has just committed a crime in the premises being guarded;
2) Actually escorting or providing security for the transport of payrolls, deposits or other valuables with prior written authority from the Commission;
3) Guarding private residence, buildings or offices, with prior written authority of the Commission; and
4) With respect to guards of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology and provincial or city jails, only while escorting prisoners to and from prosecution offices, tribunals or courts in compliance with subpoena issued for the purpose, and with prior written authority of the Commission.

(e) Members of the AFP and PNP:
  1) When the President of the Philippines shall have given previous authority therefor, in the interest of preserving law and order, and the Commission notified thereof in writing;
  2) When authorized by the Commission, which shall issue the permit only if it is necessary for the maintenance of a free, orderly and honest elections.
(f) Other military or police personnel, including members of the AFP and PNP intelligence units such as the ISAFP and the AFPWSSU, whose true names, rank and serial numbers are registered with the Commission.
(g) Regular agents of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA) when conducting legitimate official operations or missions with prior written specific authority of the Commission.
(h) Members of the PNP, AFP or other law enforcement agencies of the government authorized to act as bodyguards of candidates subject to the conditions provided for herein.
(i) Security pertaining to accredited members of the diplomatic and consular personnel and establishments as governed by international law, provided that an official list of the security personnel for the diplomatic officers and establishments be furnished the Committee.

The exemption extended to members of the AFP, PNP and other government personnel shall be limited to government issued firearm(s) in their name and covered by the proper Memorandum Receipts or other official documentations for the purpose.

SEC. 4. Suspension of permits to carry firearms and issuance of mission orders and memorandum receipts. – During the election period, the sole authority to issue permits to carry firearms outside residence or place of business shall be vested in the Commission. For this purpose.

a) Any permit to Carry Firearms Outside Residence (PTCFOR) Mission Orders (MO), and Memorandum Receipts (MR), issued prior to the effectivity of this Resolution and covered by the prohibition are hereby declared suspended and without force and effect.
b) During the election period, all authority to issue MO and MR to civilians pursuant to Sections 4 and 5 of the Rules and Regulations implementing P.D. 1866 dated June 29, 1983 (Codifying the law on Illegal/unlawful Possession of Firearms) are hereby suspended.
c) The PNP is hereby directed to submit to the Commission, a complete list of all PTCFOR or similar authorization issued to civilians and members of authorized security agencies within fifteen (15 days from the effectivity hereof. Within the same period, the AFP and the Department of National Defense shall submit a complete list of all MR and MO or similar authorization issued to civilians. Likewise, within the same period, the NBI shall submit a complete list of MR and MO or similar authorization issued to its regular agents.

However, the Director General, Philippine National Police, through the Chief, Firearms and Explosives Division, may continue to process and approve licenses for possession of firearms. The firearm shall be kept in deposit with Firearms and Explosives Division unless its delivery to the licensee is authorized in writing by the Commission.

SEC. 5. Committee on firearms and security personnel. – There is hereby constituted a Committee on Firearms and Security Personnel (Committee) composed of Commissioner Ralph C. Lantion, who shall be the Chairman, Atty. Jose Balbuena, Jr., Director IV of the Law Department of the Commission, as the Vice-Chairman; one (1) representative from the PNP and one (1) representative from the AFP, as members, which shall determine whether or not an applicant for authority to carry, bear or transport firearms, or for the employment of security personnel falls within the exception as provided for herein.

SEC. 6. Procedure for exemption. – Any person seeking (a) authority to carry firearms outside his residence or place of business under the Omnibus Election Code, or (b) exemption from the prohibition on bearing, carrying or transporting firearms under Republic Act No. 7166, shall file with the Committee a written request for exemption in three (3) copies, stating his full name and exact place of residence and/or business official receipt number of payment of firearm tax, and such other data as may be required by the Commission.

The Committee shall process the application in accordance with the policies herein set forth. After processing the application, the Committee shall either deny or approve the application. If approved, the Committee shall issue a written authority in three (3) copies, to be distributed as follows: the original, to the applicant; the second copy, to the Law Department; and the third copy, to be retained by the Committee.

The decision of the Committee shall be final.

SEC. 7. Application for security personnel or bodyguard. – Under the same procedure prescribed in the immediately preceding section, when circumstances so warrant including but not limited to threats to life and security of a candidate, the Committee may authorize the Chief of Staff, Armed Forces of the Philippines or Director General, Philippine National Police to assign not more than two (2) regular members of the AFP or PNP, save in exceptionally meritorious circumstances, where not more than five (5) regular members of the military or police may be assigned as such security, or the NBI Director to assign one (1) or more regular agents of said agency, who shall provide him security. If at any time the ground for which the authority to engage the services of security personnel has been granted shall cease to exist, or for any valid cause, the Commission shall revoke the authority granted.

In processing applications, the Committee shall take into consideration reports from the AFP and PNP, as well as reports from Comelec officials or any community organization on the insurgency situation of the area and similar peace and order circumstances.

SEC. 8 Confiscation of Firearms. – During the election period, the Commission may order the necessary deputized units of the PNP or when necessary, the AFP, to effect the confiscation of firearms of any member of the AFP, police force, home defense forces and all other paramilitary units that now exist or which may hereafter be organized, or any member or members of security or police organization, government departments, commissions, councils, bureaus, offices, instrumentalities, or government-owned or-controlled corporations and other subsidiaries or any member of privately-owned or-operated security, investigative, protective or intelligence agencies performing identical or similar functions and disarm all such persons who do not possess the necessary authorization from the Commission to carry, possess or transport firearms.

SEC. 9. Prohibited organization or maintenance of reaction forces, strike forces, or other similar forces. – During the election period, it shall be unlawful for any person to organize or maintain any reaction, force, strike force, civilian security force or similar force. Any of said forces which is now existing is hereby ordered disbanded immediately. All the members thereof shall return immediately their firearms, insignias, or uniforms, to the proper office or officer issuing them.

Effective immediately, but not beyond August 14, 2002, the heads of all such reaction forces, strike forces or similar forces shall submit to the Commission, through the Regional Election Directors of Region IX, in three (3) legible copies, a complete list of all members thereof, stating their full names, exact address, ranks, appointment papers or designations and nature and extent of their functions. The Regional Election Director of Region IX shall, not later than August 14, 2002, forward to the Commission copies of said lists, retaining a copy thereof.

SEC. 10. Reports. – For purposes of effectively enforcing the foregoing prohibitions, the PNP and AFP through the Director General and Chief of Staff, respectively, shall submit to the Commission reports beginning August 14, 2002 until September 5, 2002, covering the following:

a) Current status of the enforcement (i.e. number of arrests, number of confiscated firearms, etc.) of the prohibition on the unauthorized carrying, bearing and transporting of firearms, and

b) The peace and order situation in the First District of Zamboanga del Norte, including insurgency, the existence and size of private armies, the intensity of political rivalries and other circumstances, that may affect the conduct of the elections.

SEC. 11. Effectivity. – This resolution shall take effect immediately.

SEC. 12. Dissemination. – The Education and Information Department shall cause the publication of this resolution in two (2) daily newspapers of general circulation and give the same the widest dissemination possible. The Executive Director shall furnish copies of this resolution to the Secretary of the Department of National Defense, the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the Department of Justice, the Chief of Staff, Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Director-General of the Philippine National Police and the Director of the National Bureau of Investigation.

SO ORDERED.

BENJAMIN S. ABALOS, SR.
Chairman

LUZVIMINDA G. TANCANGCO
Commissioner

RUFINO S.B. JAVIER
Commissioner

RALPH C. LANTION
Commissioner

MEHOL K. SADAIN
Commissioner

RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Commissioner

FLORENTINO A. TUASON, JR.
Commissioner

(PDI – Aug. 17, 2002)

PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER

East Avenue, Quezon City

is now accepting applications for

Academic Year 2003

FELLOWSHIP
(with specific requirements)

I. **Adult Cardiology**
  - 3 years Residency in Internal Medicine accredited by PCP
  - PCP Diplomate

II. **Pediatric Cardiology**
  - 3 years Residency in General Pediatric accredited by PPS
  - at least passed written examination for Diplomate in Pediatrics by the PPS

III. **Thoracic And Cardiovascular Surgery**
  - 5 years Residency in General Surgery accredited by PCS
  - must have passed certifying examination given by the PBS (Board eligible / Diplomate)
  - at least qualified to take PBS certifying examination and the submission of satisfactory results of the in-service training examinations

IV. **Pulmonary Medicine**
  - PCP Diplomate

V. **Anesthesiology**
  - 3 years Residency in General Anesthesia accredited by PBA (Board eligible)
  - 3 month (October to December) pre-fellowship (except for graduates of the Philippine Heart Center Anesthesia Residency Program)

VI. **1 Year Clinical Research Fellowship for** Non-Invasive Cardiology, Invasive Cardiology, Cardiac Rehabilitation, Critical Care Medicine, Electrophysiology, Peripheral Vascular Medicine, Pediatric Invasive & Non-Invasive Cardiology, Thoracic & Cardiovascular Surgery and Pulmonary Medicine
1 Year Fellowship Program for Radiology, Nuclear Medicine, and Biological and Clinical Laboratory

RESIDENCY (QUERT not required) fill up application at DOH for matching (for Medical Board Passers)
I. Radiology
II. Nuclear Medicine
III. Biological and Clinical Laboratory (Pathology)

General Requirements for Application for Fellowship & Residency:
1. Medical Diploma
2. Transcript of Records with the General Average
3. Itemized Board Rating
4. Three (3) Letters of Recommendation (coming from different Doctors specifically the Training Officer &/or Director of the previous training programs)
5. Four (4) pcs. 2"x2" picture colored
6. Certificate of Residency in required specialty
7. Specialty Board Certificate in required specialty

Please address your communications to:

JOSE A. YULDE, M.D.
Assistant Director
Office of Education and Research
Philippine Heart Center
East Avenue, Quezon City

** Deadline for submission of application is on August 31, 2002*
** Academic Year 2003 starts on January 1, 2003*

For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Carmela M. Ocasion (cp# 09196239902) or Ms. Cleopatra Q. Palencia (cp# 09207645273) with Te. Nos. 925-2401 locals 3234, 3235, 3236 & 3237 and Telefax 926-9622, or you can email to oer@phc.gov.ph

(PDI--Aug. 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 & 21, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines

SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM

East Ave., Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632) 920-6401 • (632) 920-6446
E-mail: sssemail@info.com.ph • Web site http://www.sss.gov.ph
Visit the SSS website (SSS.gov,ph) for Bid Invitations

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID

SSS EMPLOYEES' RICE GRANT

The SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM (SSS) is inviting bidders for the supply and door-to-door delivery of approximately 7,700 sacks of Freshly Milled Premium Grade Commercial Rice for SSS employees for the 4th quarter of Year 2002 with the following specifications:

- Degree of Milling : Well Milled Rice (WMR)
- Moisture Content : 14% (maximum)
- Grade Specifications : Headrice - 90% to 95% (minimum) Broken - 10% to 5% (maximum)
- Packaging : 50 kilos in light yellow woven polyprophylene
- Labeling : With front & back markings
- Delivery Terms : Thirty (30) calendar days upon receipt of the Purchase Order (P.O.)

Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) : P1,000.00 per sack per employee
Source of Funding : Capital Expenditures

Interested bidders must secure the list of Eligibility Requirements from the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat, 6th Floor, SSS Main Building, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City. Only eligible bidders shall be required to pay the non-refundable fee of P5,000.00. For any inquiry, please call telephone number 922-2991 and 920-6401 local 5490/5491. The deadline for the submission of eligibility documents is on **02 September 2002**.

The SSS reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any formality or technicality, and to award to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the SSS. The SSS neither assumes any obligation for any loss whatsoever that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of their respective bids, nor does the SSS guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **MIGUEL E. ROCA, JR.**
Senior Vice President
and Chairman
Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI--Aug. 17 & 24, 2002)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
GENCO 6

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
G6-2002-008

The Bids and Awards Commitee (BAC)-GENCO 6 invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements:

SCHEDULE		ITEM/DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER
		DATE OF BIDDING: SEPTEMBER 25, 2002; 10:00 AM	
A1	1 LOT	JO' REPAIR/RECONDITIONING OF AIR COOLING WATER BOOSTER PUMP (ACWBP) OF PLANTS A, B and C	3TIW-02-0045
		DATE OF BIDDING: SEPTEMBER 25, 2002; 2:00 PM	
A2	1 LOT	JO' REPAIR/REHAB OF INTERMEDIATE AIR COMPRESSOR & UTILITY AIR COMPRESSOR OF PLANTS A, B and C	3TIW-02-0046
		DATE OF BIDDING: SEPTEMBER 26, 2002; 10:00 AM	
B1	1 LOT	JO' SUPPLY OF LABOR AND MATERIALS IN THE INSTALLATION OF 13.8 KV GENERATOR CIRCUIT BREAKERS OF UNIT 5 & 6	3TIW-02-0005
		DATE OF BIDDING: SEPTEMBER 26, 2002; 2:00 PM	
B2	1 SET	JO' THERMAL SPRAY/REPAIR & RESTORE TO ORIGINAL DIAMETER AND SIZE OF BEARING HOUSING/HOLDER OF COOLING TOWER FAN MOTORS	3MAK-02-0393
B3	3 PCS	DIFFUSER, HD AND 3 OTHER ITEMS	3MAK-02-0276

NOTE: A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held for the following bidding schedules on:
1) A1 - **SEPTEMBER 10, 2002**; 9:00 a.m. at SLRO Bidding Room
2) A2 - **SEPTEMBER 10, 2002**; 10:00 a.m. at SLRO Bidding Room
3) B1 - **SEPTEMBER 10, 2002**; 11:00 a.m. at SLRO Bidding Room

Complete sets of Application Form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from Procurement, Traffic and Warehousing Services (PTWS) Section, Administration Division, GENCO 6, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00 starting **August 21, 2002**. No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the SLRC Bidding Room, NPC-SLRC, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna on the date and time specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with **"Executive Order 40"**.

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to 2.5% of the approved budget in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit, Surety Bond, penal and callable on demand issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

NPC-GENCO 6 reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

(PDI – Aug. 17 & 25, 2002)

(Sgd.) **R.H. HERRERA**
Chairman, BAC

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INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY & TO BID

The Philippine Heart Center (PHC) invites sealed written bids, re: supply of labor, tools and materials for the **INSTALLATION OF FIRE ALARM SYSTEM AND SMOKE/HEAT DETECTOR.**

Only duly accredited bidders/suppliers will be allowed to participate in the bidding.

List of requirements to be submitted:
1. Letter of intent /co. profile
2. SEC registration
3. Business License
4. List of clients
5. Financial Statement (last 2 yrs.)
6. ITR (last 2 yrs.)
7. Location Map of Office

All interested bidders/suppliers must submit their accreditation documents on or before August 26, 2002 at Purchasing Division.

The PHC reserves the right to disqualify any prospective bidder/s if found that they have submitted falsified documents and/or information and the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder/s.

(Sgd.) **ROMEO J. SANTOS, M.D.**
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI–Aug. 10, 11, 12, 17, 18 & 19, 2002)

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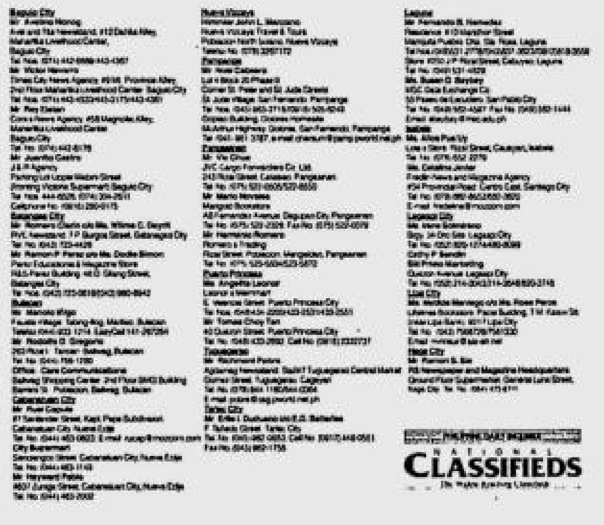
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"AS-IS-WHERE-IS"

Sale of used bank vehicles; used/obsolete Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) and Automatic Voltage Regulator; used dismantled but in working condition "Insinger" brand dishwashing machine; defective washing machine and dryer; obsolete/defective security equipment and supplies; used/defective food services equipment and supplies; obsolete printing, reproduction, computer related and office supplies.

Above items may be inspected starting **August 19, 2002 up to August 30, 2002 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.** Mondays to Fridays, at the Materials Management Unit, ADB Headquarters Bldg., No. 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila.

The sale will be on an **"AS-IS-WHERE-IS"** basis. Particulars regarding the terms and conditions of sale, including bid forms, may be obtained upon request from the Materials Management Unit (MMU), Room G923.

Bids will be accepted up to 2:00 p.m. on September 2, 2002. Bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. on September 3, 2002 at the OAS Conference Room (Rm. 4522). Bidders wishing to attend the bid opening are welcome to do so.

Bidders are required to submit a bid deposit by manager's or cashier's check in an amount equivalent to at least ten (10) percent of the bid amount, together with the duly accomplished bid forms in a sealed envelope.

For further information, please contact: The Materials Management Unit
Telephone Nos. 632-4317/4316

(PDI - Aug. 17 & 18, 2002)

INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS

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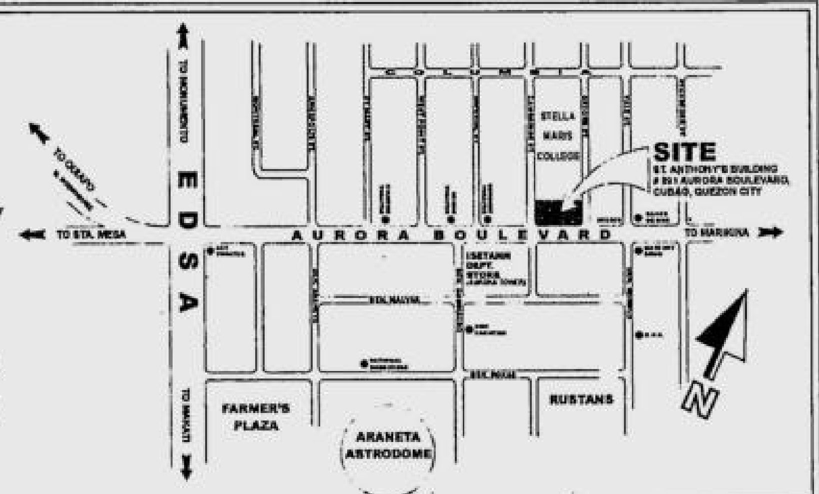
For inquiries, please call **912-9008** to **11**.



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OBITUARIES

Armando "Boy" Jison Alano

Died in the Grace of our Lord on August 7, 2002
in Carlisle, Ma. USA at the age of 58.

He is survived by his wife **Lily Dichupa-Alano**; mother **Luisa Jison vda de Alano**, brother **Mike** & sister **Aurora "Girl" A. Ford**; in-laws **Joy E. Alano** & **James "Sandy" Ford**; nephews & nieces **Tom, John, Jimmy** & **Kate Ford**; **Miko** & **Miya E. Alano.**

FRANCISCO (JIMMY) L. CHUA, JR.

(Leveriza St., Pasay City, M.M.)
August 15, 2002 at the age of 54.

His bereaved wife **Erlinda**; children **Jocelyn** and **Aiman**, **Jessica** and **Ian**, **Jennifer**, **Joseph**; grandchildren **Jean-Adrianne**, **Jian**, **Mariam**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Rizal Funeral Homes, Inc., Pasay City, Metro Manila.

Interment will be announced later.

We've added another dignified service to keep the memory of your departed loved ones.

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
CREMATORY SERVICES
ON CALL 24 HOURS A DAY
143 G. Araneta Avenue corner Kaliraya Street, Quezon City
Telephone Nos. 749-3806 to 11 • 712-3001 • 743-6502
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102 years

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.
Matthew 10:39

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

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OBITUARIES

YORK (U.S.A.) CASKETS
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*For more information, please call your funeral director.

"Surely Your goodness and mercy shall be with me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

Psalm 23:6

IRENE CAUYAN LIBREA

Of Dolores Quezon, San Pablo City, Laguna and Parañaque City

May 5, 1922 - August 14, 2002

Her loving husband **Jose** (†); and children **Pedro, Celia, Rosette, Josefino, Galo, Romualdo** (†), **Erico** (†) and **Jose Bernardo** (†); brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives and dear friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Sunday, August 18, 2002 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City after the 8:00 a.m. Holy Mass.

Mercedes Leetai Filler

of Baguio City

Joined our Creator for the Feast of the Assumption on August 15, 2002 at the age of 88.

Her family requests relatives and friends to please remember her in your prayers.

Her remains will lie in state at the family residence in Baguio. Mass will be held at the Baguio Cathedral at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, August 21, 2002.

Interment will follow at the Baguio Cemetery.

Si

Emilia Pagarigan Galang Vda de Oliveros

Ng Carmen, Rosales, Pangasinan

Ay mapayapang sumakabilang buhay noong Agosto 10, 2002 sa edad na 84.

Ang kanyang iniwang mga anak na sina **Ramon, Teresita, Mario, Margarita, Oscar, Aurita, Erlinda,** at **Flordeliza;** mga manugang na sina **Mageline, Marciano, Thelma, Mario,** at **Arnulfo**; mga apo na sina **Victor DC Andres** at **ThessaLee AD Marie Vistro, Benjamin III** at **Rhoda Oliveros, Ryan, Ian Mark,** at **Manette Rodrigo, Emily, Bonifacio II, Oscar Jr.** at **Aileen Oliveros, Edgardo, Romeo, Marites,** at **Stella Marquez, Arnulfo Jr.** at **Lizaflor Dagdag**; mga kapatid na sina **Magdalena, Juanita** at **Dorotea;** at mga kaibigan ay nagpapasalamat sa lahat ng nanalangin para sa kanyang mapayapang paglalakbay upang salubungin ang Panginoon.

Nakahimlay ang kanyang mga labi sa kanyang tahanan sa Carmen East, Rosales, Pangasinan. Ang libing ay gaganapin sa Lunes, Agosto 19, 2002, 10:00 ng umaga sa Holy Spirit Memorial Park, sa Tumana, Rosales, Pangasinan.

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You will be missed
But memories of your love and affection
Will live with us forever

To our dearly beloved Daddy and Lolo

JUDGE PASTOR "Totoy" V. DE GUZMAN, JR. (Ret.)

Who has gone home to be with the Lord on August 13, 2002 at the age of 75.

His loving wife **Carmencita**; children and children-in-law **Meg** and **Francis, Toti** and **Anna, Carey** and **Henry**; grandchildren **Cheska** (†), **Niko, Jenine, Toby, Tabhita, Karen, Kay, Niño, Patrick, Lyca** and **TJ** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Wake is at La Funeraria Paz, Inc., 79 Naguilian Road, Baguio City from August 14-20, 2002. His remains will be transferred to Justice Hall Baguio City on Tuesday, August 20 after which burial Mass will be on Wednesday, August 21, 2002 at 9:00 a.m. at Don Bosco Church Trancoville, Baguio City.

Interment follows at Baguio Cemetery.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord." Matthew 10:39

MESSAGE OF THANKS

We, the family of the late

ALFREDO A. ALLEJE

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord on June 5, 2002

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy, and who in countless ways condoled with and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

In Loving Memory on the
3rd Death Anniversary of

ATANACIA "TATING" S. MARTINEZ

(August 22, 1936 - August 17, 1999)

Holy Masses will be offered at the following churches:

National Shrine of Our Mother of Perpetual Help, Baclaran	6:45 a.m.
San Roque Parish, Mandaluyong	7:00 a.m.
San Felipe Neri Parish, Mandaluyong	7:00 a.m.
Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene, Quiapo	10:00 a.m.
Archdiocesan Shrine of the Divine Mercy, Mandaluyong	6:00 p.m.
Our Lady of Atonement Baguio Cathedral, Baguio	6:00 p.m.

Radio Veritas Asia
Buick Street, Fairview Park
Quezon City - 1118

The Management and Staff of Radio Veritas Asia requests your prayers for

REV. FR. HUGO DELBAERE, CICM

Technical Consultant for Radio Veritas Asia (1973-2002)
He joined our Creator on August 14, 2002 at the age of 68.

Radio Veritas Asia, Management and Staff are indebted to the man responsible for breathing life back to the shortwave station in 1974 after intensive rehabilitation work.

Through his dedication and commitment, RVA is what it is today because of a well-grounded technical foundation, enabling its 17 Language Services to proclaim God's message of Love to the peoples of Asia via shortwave broadcast.

His remains lie in state at the CICM Provincial House #60, 14th Street, New Manila until August 18, Sunday after which his remains will be transferred to the Maryhurst Seminary Chapel in Baguio City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, August 20, 2002, 9:00 a.m. at the CICM Cemetery after the morning Mass of the Resurrection at the Maryhurst Seminary Chapel, Baguio City.

Radio Veritas Asia
Buick Street, Fairview Park
Quezon City — 1118

REV. FR. JEAN DESAUTELS, S.J.

Former Program Consultant for Radio Veritas Asia and former Executive Secretary of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences - Office of Social Communications (FABC-OSC)

PEACEFULLY JOINED OUR CREATOR on August 1, 2002 at the age of 88.

The Management and Staff of Radio Veritas Asia, a shortwave radio broadcasting the Gospel Message to the peoples of Asia, will always be grateful and continue to be sustained by his guidance and steadfast concern for RVA's mission.

His confreres and co-workers request for prayers for the repose of his soul.

The family of

Soledad "Choleng" Castellano Gomez

Wish to announce her change of residence as she joins our Heavenly Father, our Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, Our Blessed Virgin Mother, St. Joseph, and all the angels and saints in her permanent address in heaven on August 14, 2002.

Her beloved children **Margie & Raymond, Manny & Lynn, Joey & Emily, Chiqui & Lito, John & Benjie**; grandchildren **Raymar, Bunny, Rainier, Maby, Hannah, Andy, Anton, Andrea, Angela, Alvin, Albert, Marie, Mara, Jose, Abby, Alexis, Christine, Jaycy, Cathy, Jet, Jericho, John Junior, Chelsea, Angel & Benjie III**; sisters and brothers, other relatives and friends request for prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the St. Jerome Church, Alabang Commercial Center, Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

Interment will be on Saturday, August 17, 2002 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the 2:00 PM Holy Mass.

"One thing I seek... to dwell in the house of the Lord all the rest of my life."

Our dearly beloved

HENRY VILLANUEVA ANDRES

has peacefully joined God and His angels on August 15, 2002.

His loving wife **Lily**; children **Ferdinand** and **Heli**; son-in-law **Noel**; grandchildren **Henri, Matheu, Isaiah** and **Lili Nocle**; sisters **Lourdes** and **Juanita** (†); brothers **Sesinando** (†), **Rodrigo** and **Antonio**, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at his residence, #437 Gen. Luna Street, Dulong Bayan II, San Mateo, Rizal.

Interment will immediately follow the Funeral Mass on Tuesday, August 20, 2002 at the Nuestra Señora de Aranzazu Parish Church, San Mateo, Rizal at 10:00 a.m.

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SATURDAYSpecial

Editor **Nestor U. Torre** ● *Associate Editor* **Edmund L. Sicam**

'Signs' of the movie times

MEL Gibson's latest starrer is No. 1 at the box office.

By Nestor U. Torre

SOME months ago, we caught a documentary on cable TV on the mysterious "crop circles" that have literally cropped up all over the world. The docu tried to get to the bottom of the mystery, to the extent of hiring people with infra-red (night vision) cameras to stand watch over wheat and corn fields, in the hope of documenting how such circles originated, or were created.

Pranksters

Were they really the work of extraterrestrials, to guide their starships as they landed? Or were they made by teams of pranksters and publicity-hungry people who toiled together all night long?

After a long wait, the documentary's producers had the answer: Their infra-red cameras were able to capture some pranksters using ski-like contraptions to flatten certain predetermined parts of the field, to create the giant "signs" that would baffle people who saw them at daybreak.

Thus, the documentary was able to prove that the crop circles were a clever hoax. Case closed?

Not quite. Even in the face of all that evidence, diehard believers pointed out that thousands of crop circles have been seen appearing in fields all over the globe.

Controversy

Did this one documented hoax prove that *all* those other signs were similarly manmade, and therefore spurious? That would take so many thousands of people to pull off! Are there that many like-minded, hardworking pranksters on the planet? Thus, the controversy continues to rage.

For his part, filmmaker M. Night Shyamalan ("The Sixth Sense," "Unbreakable") has decided to conduct his own (filmic) investigation, and has come up with his third film, "Signs," on the mystery of the crop circles. What's *his* take on the (real or manufactured) phenomenon?

Former pastor

In "Signs," superstar Mel Gibson is cast as a farmer and former pastor who becomes an unbeliever after his wife is killed in a car accident. When an elaborate crop circle shows up on his cornfield, he assumes that it is the work of pranksters with too much time on their hands.

But, is that all there is to it? As Gibson's character gets more involved in the phenomenon, he experiences several moments of truth that shake him to the depths of his being. More than just pranksters or aliens from outer space are involved here, and questions of faith and love are provocatively asked, and even more stunningly answered.

First salvo

Well, it looks like those questions have struck a major chord in viewers, because "Signs" has had one of the biggest opening weekends in the history of US films, making $60.1 M on its first salvo, more than double what Shyamalan's first hit, "The Sixth Sense" earned ($26.7 M).

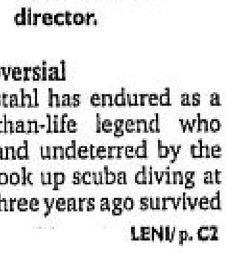
Was this mainly because the very popular Mel Gibson was headlining the movie? But Gibson's own previous personal record was only $34.2 M, for "Ransom's" opening weekend.

Clearly, it's the combination one-two-three punch of Gibson, the movie's provocative sub-

SIGNS/ p. C4

Leni Riefenstahl approaches her 100th birthday

By Adam Tanner



RIEFENSTAHL. Hitler's favorite director.

BERLIN—Only now as she approaches her 100th birthday next month does the legendary Leni Riefenstahl admit that age is slowing down the pioneering filmmaker who became notorious as Adolf Hitler's favorite director.

Controversial

For decades Riefenstahl has endured as a controversial, larger-than-life legend who lived life undaunted and undeterred by the passage of time. She took up scuba diving at the age of 72 and just three years ago survived

LENI/ p. C2

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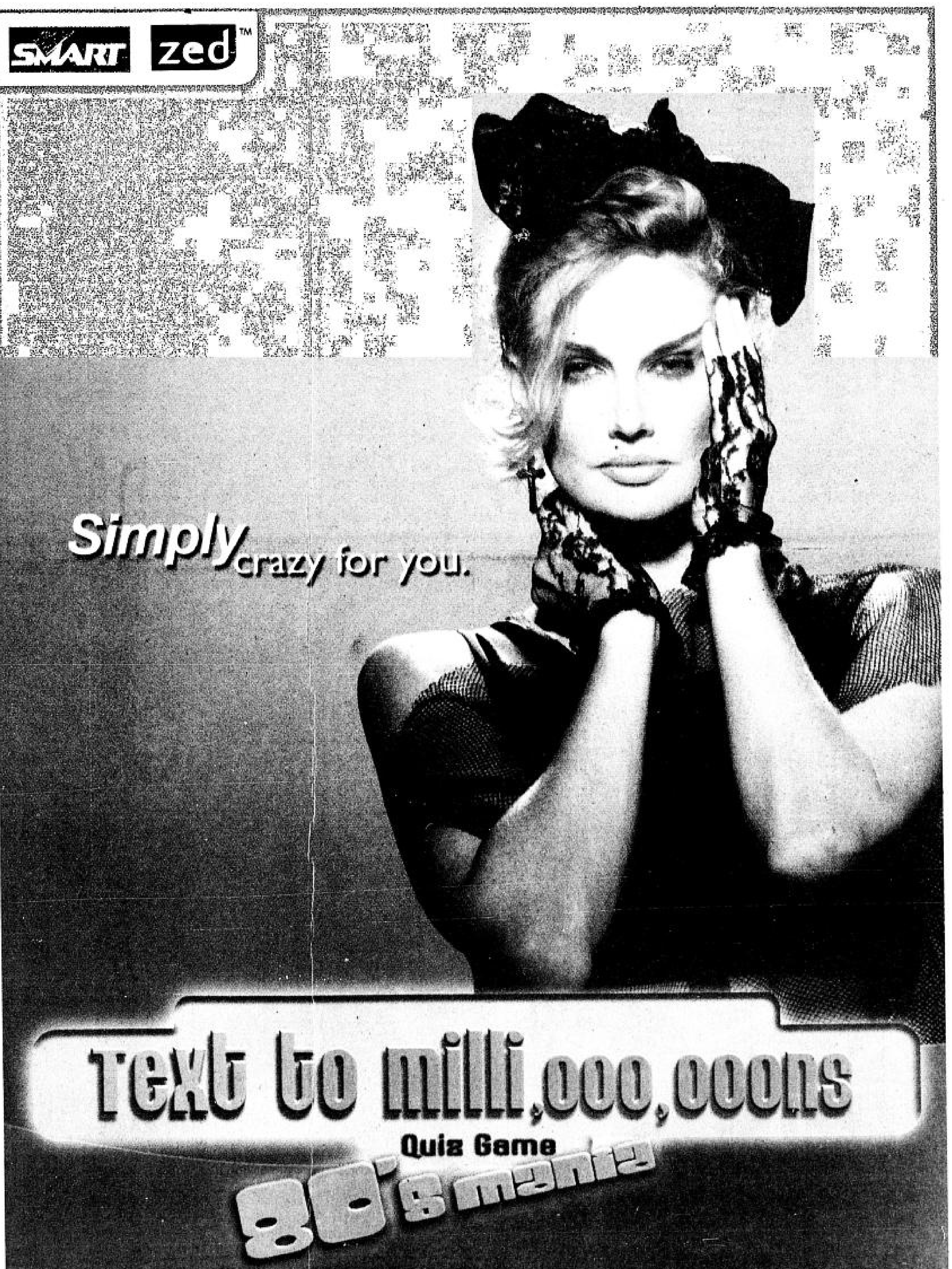

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Week 11	September 16, 2002	2 winners of ₱25,000.00 each
Highest Scorer	October 1, 2002	1 winner of ₱100,000.00
Grand Draw	October 1, 2002	1 winner of ₱1,000,000.00

SMART
Simply Amazing!

GMA explains ₱50M incentive to film industry

By Edmund L. Siçam

WE were one of five entertainment writers who interviewed President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo last Saturday at Malacañang Palace. We came at the invitation of the Metro Manila Film Festival represented at the meeting by Caloocan City Mayor Rey Malonzo and the FAP's Atty. Espiridion Laxa. It was an intimate setting with only a few press office staff around. Earlier, we were told that there would be some kind of protocol, but no one seemed to mind when the interview followed a free-wheeling format.

Movie fan

We asked the president why she granted the P50 million incentive to the MMFF. "First of all, I'm a movie fan," she replied with a smile. "Secondly, from the policy point of view, culture should be in the hands of civil society, not the government. You can't really regulate culture except in the case of the MTRCB because there are boundaries that they should not cross.

"That's why the Congress made culture subject to a commission rather than a department because a department has a machinery to regulate, whereas a commission only sets policy guidelines. We're not saying, `This is what must be done or else...' but `This is how we would like it to be.' For those who conform, there'll be some incentives."

The president made the P50 million commitment when she addressed the Cinemanila festival last year, so the festival organizers assumed that the funding would go to them. She stressed to us during the 45-minute session that she had earmarked the incentives for the MMFF. She wanted the money to go to the production of local movies, something Cinemanila was not designed for.

She then proceeded to stress the importance of film in national development. "I was telling the NCCA (National Commission on Culture and the Arts), the most important medium of culture in the country is the movies because that's what the masses enjoy the most. Compare that to the number of people who watch plays or go to the opera.

"So, when there are values you want to promote like patriotism, love of family, respect of elders, etc., film is the ideal medium. But the government can't be the one to do it because culture is in the hands of civil society. So we have this incentives package."

Mayor Malonzo explained how the P50 million would be used: Out of the 39 entries that were submitted, 10 were chosen to receive one million pesos each. Of this number, only seven will make it to the festival itself. Each film will receive an additional P3 million each.

MMFF also sponsored a scriptwriting contest, with P100,000 going to the first prize winner.

THE PRESIDENT and the author.

Monthly winner

Also, last month, Regal Films' "Pakisabi Na Lang (Mahal Ko Siya)" starring Judy Ann Santos became the first winner of the monthly Presidential Award for Quality Film. The movie won P500,000. Five more movies will be chosen monthly winners from August to December. Part of the incentive will also be used for film education, according to Malonzo.

Recently, the President signed a bill creating the Film Development Council of the Philippines which would grant tax rebates to quality movies. We asked her if she had already named the members of the council. She said she was still working on it. "I've already put down some names but I haven't completed the list because there are quite a number of positions available."

GMA stressed that the Council should be able to source its funds. "So, for the head of the council, we need a financial manager, someone who knows how to package proposals to get funding from foundations or foreign assistance. The Council should not rely totally on the government."

Someone asked the president if the P50 million would be an annual grant. She didn't give a categorical answer, saying the incentive was something unprecedented. She told us of her dream to build studio facilities and laboratories that independent producers can rent. "This is the age of special effects. Unless they have the facilities that they can use by just renting and not buying the equipment themselves, we won't be able to reach world standards," she said.

The President said we have good actors but emphasized that the scripts must go beyond the usual sex and violence. "It has to be international in taste." Then she recalled speaking to Sharon Stone, who is married to Phil Bronstein, a newspaper editor in San Francisco who covered the Philippines for a long time. "She likes the Philippines so much. She said she wouldn't mind appearing in a film written and produced by Filipinos if the script is something that she can be proud of. The script is really crucial."

Piracy drive

Aside from the financial incentives, the President is very serious about curbing piracy and reducing the amusement taxes. She's very happy about the work of VRB chairman Bong Revilla. She mentioned the P100 million worth of pirated VCDs and tapes that he confiscated in Quiapo. (Malonzo said part of the MMFF proceeds will go to the VRB.)

On taxes, she has used moral suasion to convince Metro Manila mayors to lower amusement taxes. She's concentrating on the metro area because most of the movie revenues are generated here.

On the matter of censorship, we asked for her reaction to the observation of some producers that the MTRCB under chairman Mari-len Dinglasan is too strict. "I don't agree with them," she replied without hesitation. "That's why I'm giving all my support to the movie industry, but I have to comply with my own moral values."

Did she give any special instructions to the new chairman. "She asked me, 'How far should I go?' Well, for one thing, I think frontal nudity is out." However, she told the MTRCB head to ease up on the Cinemanila films. "Since we're not giving them all that money that they're expecting, I guess if they are prizewinners, and not just any prize, you could stretch the standards a little. So Tikoy (Aguiluz) will not lose face that he cannot show anything anymore."

Urgent business

We were told that the President was always on time for her appointments, so when she came 15 minutes, we thought she probably had urgent business to attend to. As it turned out, she had come from the San Beda compound in Mendiola where a structure had collapsed, so she went there before joining us.

During the interview, we were given a modest serving of macaroni salad, something which the president munched on as we talked. It was quite understandable since the interview took place before noon.

Close to noontime, the interview was finished and the President was off to an adjoining room where a lunch meeting was going to take place, but not before she posed with us for souvenir photos.

Leni Riefenstahl approaches her 100th birthday

From p. C1

a helicopter crash in Sudan.

The director of "Triumph of the Will," a documentary on the 1934 Nuremberg Rally, will in August release her first film in half a century, an underwater documentary taken during her many dives in exotic locations such as the Indian Ocean.

Yet in a rare interview, Riefenstahl said time is now working against her.

"I have big health problems," she said. "My spinal column is ruined and therefore I suffer heavy pain. I have to take strong pain killers which make my head kaput." She has used morphine, which is commonly prescribed against severe pain but is highly addictive.

Illness

"But I am fighting against my illness and . . . I am working nonetheless," she said. Riefenstahl has been fighting her whole life.

As a young woman she strove for fame as a ballet dancer and an actress and later as a film director. She sought out Nazi dictator Hitler, who commissioned "Triumph of the Will," and "Olympia," her pioneering film record of the 1936 Berlin Olympics.

This artistic link to the Nazis, as well as rumors which she has always denied of a romantic link with Hitler, made Riefenstahl a pariah after the war.

Asked if she was unfairly cast out from her profession, she said: "Yes, I agree 100 percent." She defends her movies during the Nazi era as art and said she does not deserve to be forever condemned for this past.

Critics have accused her of failing to face up to issues raised by her involvement with the Nazis.

After the war, Riefenstahl turned to still photography and produced a series of critically acclaimed picture books of Nuba tribesmen in southern Sudan and of the undersea world.

Rejection

Did her rejection in Europe and the United States after the war—including several years imprisonment under French occupation authorities for helping the Nazi propaganda machine—drive her to seek refuge in the Earth's most distant corners? *(To be concluded)* Reuters

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Tough acts to follow

By Nestor U. Torre

STARS come and go, but a few of them linger in people's minds as tough acts to follow. They are often emulated or downright imitated, but never equalled- and certainly never surpassed.

Hit persona

On the local entertainment scene, one such one-of-a-kind talent was Nida Blanca. All by her lonesome, she created the hit persona of the brassy, sassy musical kook that latter-day talents like Maricel Soriano, Judy Ann Santos and Jolina Magdangal have tried to bring back to zesty life on the big and small screens.

But Nida will always be the original- and the best. Because her signature persona came from her own, unique temperament and outlook in life. She had a determinedly upbeat attitude that made her perky characters ring true.

It was also important that she was pretty. Thus, she contradicted the hoary, old show biz notion that comediennes had to look weird or even physically- and vocally-challenged to be funny.

Doubly entertaining

Finally, Nida could sing and dance up a storm, so her comedies usually had an even more exciting musical aspect to them that made them doubly entertaining.

We've seen Jolina do justice to Nida's legacy on a "Star Studio" special many months ago, but most other stars' attempts have been deficient.

Among the country's male performers, the unbeatable one is the late drama king, Vic Silayan. He's been gone a long time, but nobody has come up to rightfully claim his crown.

Standout

Ruben Rustia was a standout in his own right, but he's no longer around. Jay Ilagan could have matured into a sterling talent, but he died early. Christopher de Leon started off well but has acquired bad acting habits.

Who will inherit Vic Silayan's thespic mantle? At the moment, nobody. Ricky Davao, Tommy Abuel, Johnny Delgado, Cesar Montano

TOUGH/ p. C4

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Hollywood sons and their fathers

By Behn Cervantes

MICHAEL Douglas, left, has surpassed his father Kirk's career.

THERE is very little evidence to show that successful Hollywood fathers do very much to bolster their offsprings' careers. In most cases, the ambitious second Hollywood generation has to do it on its own. Its members may use their connections to jumpstart their careers, but in the long run, their own talents have to see them through the career challenges and demands of show business.

Looker

John Barrymore, the Great Profile of Hollywood, had a Junior, but he didn't amount to much, although he was quite a looker himself. Like his father, and sister Diana whose life was the basis for "Too Much Too Soon," John Jr. turned to drink and ruined his career early on. He is however remembered as the father of Drew Barrymore, one of Hollywood's most exciting talents.

The great Charlie Chaplin had a number of children by his different wives. Sidney Chaplin was one of them. He tried to make it in Hollywood but had little success. He resorted to acting on Broadway and starred in "Bells Are Ringing" with Judy Holiday, who went on to win an Oscar for "Born Yesterday," and "Funny Girl" with multi-awarded superstar Barbra Streisand. He was so thoroughly upstaged by the vastly talented Barbra that he hastily quit the play, and has not been heard of since.

And there was a Charlie Chaplin Jr. who was also trying to find his place in the Hollywood sun. He persisted for a while, but obviously lost his way and has not been heard of since, either.

Image

Bing Crosby had a number of sons. He exploited them in his radio shows to create the image of an ideal American family. For many years, he was Hollywood's top box-office draw. Movie fans everywhere loved his relaxed and breezy style. He was an American icon who represented apple pie and Thanksgiving dinners. His image was pristine. It was that of a good family man.

Years later, however, his dark side was revealed by his sons, who claimed he terrorized them when they were young, and was never pleased by anything they did, whether in school or onstage.

His wife Dixie Lee was equally unhappy and turned to booze for solace. It turned out the Academy Award winner was a drinking, womanizing and abusive father who left his sons by his first wife with nary a cent of his many millions.

Ironically, a couple of his most memorable roles were those of a kindly priest who had a way with kids. The Academy Award was given to him for portraying a singing priest in "Going My Way" with the box-office hit "The Bells of St. Mary," its much-awaited sequel. His sons were stunned by his will. They couldn't understand why he was so angry with them when they were, they claimed, the victims.

Big stars

Henry Fonda has son Peter who had a successful career as actor and producer in the '60s with the film "Easy Rider" that made him and Jack Nicholson big stars with a faithful cult following. A drug problem stalled his otherwise flourishing career and left him in the cold for many years.

Instead, daughter Brigitte made a name for herself in the film capital, proving that genes do play a role, after all. However, Peter has recently come back to critical acclaim as well as an Academy nomination for his latest perfromance. But he is completely overshadowed by his sister Jane, whose various careers (actress, producer, writer, exercise guru, activist) and interests (acting, health, ecology, politics; women power) as well as two Academy awards and other honors have made her a Hollywood legend and one of this century's most interesting film stars.

Another success story: Michael Douglas has surpassed his father Kirk's critical acclaim by winning an Oscar for "Wall Street." Films he produced like "One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest" have made him one of Hollywood's important players.

TV special

His career is going strong to this day, with a television special to showcase his father's talent. In Michael's case, it seems Kirk helped to bolster his career, as he did those of his friends during his long stay in Hollywood.

On the other hand, John Carradine, a reliable and in-demand supporting actor, had sons (Keith, John Jr.) who achieved greater financial and popular success than he did. However, he remains etched in the minds of film buffs for movies like "Gone With The Wind" where his stentorian voice and evil character sent shivers down viewers' spines. He was one of those character actors the audience loved to hate. There was also Victor MacLagen Jr. whose only purpose was for the audience to ask, "Victor who?"

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Tough acts . . .

From p. C3

and Cris Villanueva are possibilities, but either they don't act often enough, or the quality of the material they work on is checkered.

SILAYAN. A sense of zest.

Make no mistake, Vic Silayan wasn't a "purist" as an actor, and did his share of commercial stuff to put food on the table. But, even when he was doing "commercial" work, there was a believability, solidity, texture, and sense of zest to his performances that made him stand out.

Most memorable

And, when he was at his untrammelled best, he was riveting. Some film buffs idolize him for his "cruel" portrayal in "Kisapmata," but we found him most memorable in "Ligaw na Bulaklak."

In that Ishmael Bernal sex-drama, Vic played an old, impotent man who both took care of and abused a very young girl. In other mature actors' hands, Vic's role would have been a turn-off. But he made the character a complex combination of kneejerk evil and tentative kindness—a tough act to follow, indeed.

Truly, it is in the interstices, the contradictions of human nature, that authentic humanity lies. When a character is completely bad, we don't want to get to understand him better. When he's absolutely good, we can't relate to him, either, because he's literally too good to be true.

Vic Silayan excelled because he wasn't ashamed to bare the festering souls of his characters, while refusing to believe that they were beyond redemption. What a tough act to follow!

'Signs' . . .

From p. C1

ject matter *and* Shyamalan's filmmaking reputation that has made "Signs" an exceptional winner.

Fear and fascination

This early, Shyamalan has already been hailed as "the next Hitchcock" and "the next Spielberg," due to his ability to mine the thriller and sci-fi film formats for all the fear and fascination they're worth.

But the last word on the film has to be Gibson's: Interviewed on cable TV recently, he was asked for his own take on the true origins of crop circles. After all was said and done, he admitted, he believed that they were the work of pranksters.

Obviously, however, "Signs" is not.

Mayer's 'Room for Squares' offers something new

By Lela Torre

MAYER. Lively, heartfelt songs.

"ROOM for Squares" is a collection of 14 new tracks by singer/songwriter/guitarist John Mayer. Mayer's interest in blues music started when, at age 13, he was given a tape of Stevie Ray Vaughan songs by a neighbor. While the rest of his peers were still listening to pop music, Mayer was practicing his guitar playing. A self-declared nerd, he spent his high-school years waiting for the time when he could finally break away and be free to do his thing.

Blues bars

He started out by playing at blues bars, impressing his audience with his guitar-playing skill. But he soon realized that he preferred writing and performing his own songs to trying to improve on the songs of other people.

As a result, Mayer applied himself to the improvement of his songwriting skills. And while he didn't abandon the guitar in favor of songwriting, he made it a "servant" to his songs. The guitar acrobatics came second to melody and rhythm. To further his knowledge, he enrolled at Boston's Berkeley College of Music at the age of 19. He soon realized, however, that he was "more interested in making and playing music than in studying it."

Regular

Soon after Berkeley, Mayer transferred to Atlanta and became a regular at various Atlanta songwriters' nightspots, particularly at "Eddie's Attic." He released an album of solo acoustic renditions of his lively, heartfelt songs, plus several tracks recorded with a full band in 1999.

His live performances in Atlanta attracted a loyal following. The press soon heard about him, and his popularity grew. He performed at the prestigious South by Southwest music conference in Austin, Texas in March 2000, and that was when he was discovered by big recording companies.

He eventually chose to sign with Aware/Columbia Records. He started recording his big debut album in the fall with producer John Alagia of Dave Matthews Band and Ben Folds Five.

The new album, "Room for Squares," differs from his first, "Inside Wants Out," in that it involves a full band. *(To be concluded)*

MTV-Penshoppe Youth Council brings smiles to old folks' faces

AFTER visiting the young ones at Chosen Children Village, the members of the MTV-Penshoppe Youth Council next brought smiles recently to the faces of the old folks at Golden Acres in Quezon City.

Treats

The group delighted *lolos* and *lolas* not only with the treats they brought, but, more importantly, with the attention and care they showered on them during their visit. The group, in turn, was touched by the old folks' warm smiles.

The MTV-Penshoppe Youth Council is composed of Kathleen Hilario, Leila Lee Kuzma, Danielle Mendoza, Kelly Misa, Nicole Schulze, Terrence Koa, Richard Lozano, Marco Lobregat, Uriah Vanden Bos and Brad Turvey.

Ideals

The group was formed to represent the ideals that MTV Philippines and Penshoppe believe today's youth should possess—fun and free-spirited yet responsible, concerned, and dedicated to the well-being of the community.

Aside from visiting Golden Acres and Chosen Children Village, the Youth Council also took part in the Habitat for Humanity project.

The MTV-Penshoppe Youth Council is supported by Calì and I-Academy.

Bryan Adams' songs in 'Spirit'

DREAMWORKS Pictures' newest feature, "Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron" is the first animated film where the central character is a horse that doesn't not talk.

However, actor Matt Damon provides the first-person narrative voice for the character of Spirit at pivotal points of the story. But while the filmmakers use limited narration to communicate what Spirit is thinking, what he is feeling is expressed throughout the film in songs by Bryan Adams and music by Hans Zimmer.

Heartfelt

"The songs are the emotional voice of Spirit," director Asbury says. "Bryan Adams has a very emotional, heartfelt singing style, which is appropriate for this because the songs tell the story from Spirit's heart. In that way, Bryan is the heart of the film."

Adams says, "Basically, what we were trying to create was a musical, with the songs expressing the emotions of a horse. As a singer, my role was being a storyteller, trying to bring Spirit's emotions to life through my voice."

Promise of a good future

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

AN IMPORTANT meeting took place last July at the Quirino Grandstand. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was there, but she wasn't the focal point of the event. Instead, it was the 1,000 children brought together by Petron Foundation for an audience with the president.

Recipients

They were the primary recipients of "Tulong Aral ng Petron," a scholarship program in partnership with the Department of Social Welfare and Development and in cooperation with the Department of Education.

The children have all been enrolled in Grade One and will continue to be "Tulong Aral" scholars until they graduate from Grade Six in 2008.

The government subsidizes the tuition, while "Tulong Aral" provides a complete set of uniforms, school supplies, and meal allowances.

Petron also builds schools. There is a Petron school in Sta. Cruz, Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental. More of these three classroom units with complete facilities will be constructed in the next few years, with the Mindanao region high on the priority list.

Training program

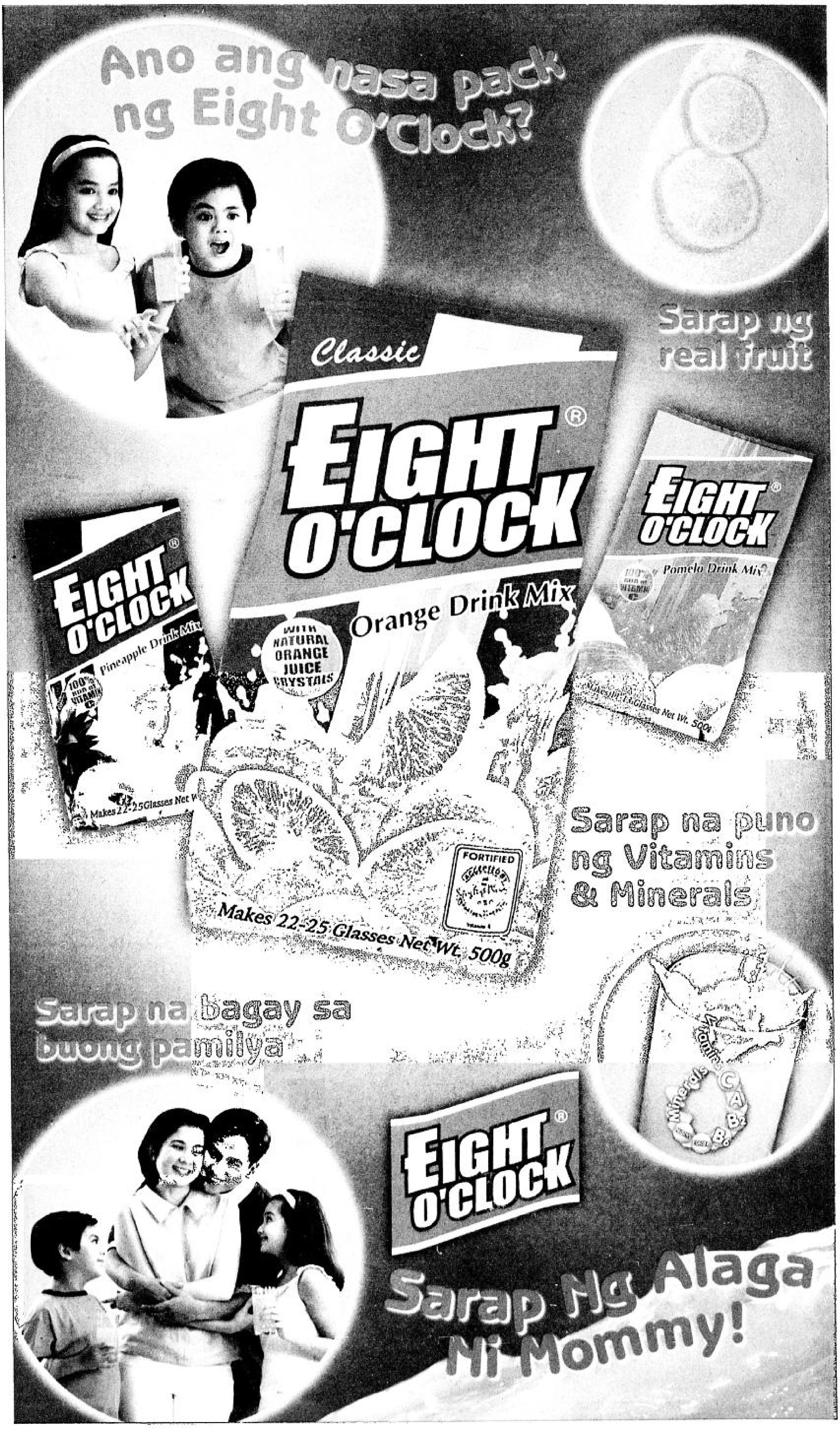
Petron has also launched the Petron Skills Training and Education Program (STEP), a customized training program that gives the youth a chance to start a career in Petron's more than 1,100 service stations.

Petron employees as well as partners of Petron, family and friends of the employees, former Petron employees and even strangers touched by the program have volunteered time, money and effort to the "Tulong Aral" program.

"'Tulong Aral' is about encouraging the poor not to lose hope because there are those who are making the effort to lend them a hand," said Petron President Al Ma'ashouq. "These children that we help today may become the leaders of the country tomorrow."

E-mail Mandy Navasero at mn_photocom@i-manila.com.ph or call 522-5189 or 85/ 522-1905.

PFI executive director Malu Erni with Tulong Aral scholars from Pilar Village Elementary School, Las Piñas. At the back are Petron employee volunteers.



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SWITCHING CHANNELS

'Click's' Chynna Ortaleza

By Edmund L. Sicam

ORTALEZA. Outspoken.

LAPID. Plays the hero of Mactan.

GMA claims that "Click," which airs Saturdays at 4:30 p.m., is now the number one teen-oriented show on television. To celebrate, the network got the entire *barkada* together to do some musical numbers at Ratsky's Morato and talk to the press. Present were Alessandra de Rossi, Chynna Ortaleza, Tricia Roman, Sherwin Ordonez, Karen de los Reyes, Railey Valeroso, Angel Locsin, Richard Gutierrez, AJ Eigenmann, Bryan Revilla and Dyan Delfin.

We had a chance to sit down with Chynna, who talked to us as though we had known each other for a long time. She had a long answer for each of our pesky questions, and not once did her energy level drop.

Chynna has had a lot of practice, as she is a graduate of "Five and Up," the children's show from Probe Productions that is regretfully off the air. She is 19 years old, the daughter of advertising man Gryk Ortaleza, who's been in the news lately defending Pagcor's slot machine arcades.

The masscom student used to find TV soaps "*baduy*" until she joined the cast of "Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin" and learned that they're cool after all. With her TV assignments, she helps pay for the bills at home and doesn't depend on her parents for her allowance.

Chynna says she is not *kikay* like her character in "Click." In fact, she considers herself boyish,—that's one area where we disagree with her. She's not the type, however, who will act demure and sweet in the company of boys. She speaks out her mind to the point of telling a guy to stop courting her because he doesn't stand a chance.

Lito Lapid is 'Lapu-Lapu'

For a while, there was talk that "Lapu-Lapu," one of the 10 films competing for one of the seven slots in this year's Metro Manila Film Festival, would not be made. In fact, when someone asked Governor Lito Lapid, who plays the title role, if the movie was going to see the light of day, he said he had not received his down payment.

Last week, most of the cast members of the epic showed up at a presscon held at at the Galleria Suites to confirm that the film would start shooting soon, and Gov. Lapid stated that he had already received his down payment. Among those who showed up at the press briefing were Dante Rivero (Ferdinand Magellan), Vic Vargas (Humabon), Von Vibar (Pigafetta) and Roi Vinzon (Zula). Others present were Ma. Isabel Lopez, Gloria Sevilla, Jeric Raval, Dinah Dominguez and Cloyd Robinson.

Director William G, Mayo revealed that the movie had a budget of P35 million and includes a galleon that's being built by a company in Subic. The ship will be left behind after shooting is completed, to serve as a tourist attraction. The other scenes will be shot in the areas surrounding Subic.

Adman wins Cinemanila contest

We met one of the winners of the Cinemanila Scriptwriting Contest at the Asian Institute of Management where the Asia Europe Foundation (ASEF) was holding a conference. His name is James Ladioray, a Filipino advertising creative director based in Jordan. He shares the P800,000 top award with Mario O'Hara.

This is James' first attempt at writing a movie script, something which he started in March 2000. Then earlier this year, someone e-mailed him the rules of the contest which appeared in the Inquirer. He submitted two entries but it was "Cut" that got Cinemanila's nod. It's the story of a beauty contestant who is obsessed about winning a title, and a cute child star who finds himself unable to land movie assignments when he grows up.

James is a Bachelor of Fine Arts graduate of UP and worked as associate creative director at J Walter Thompson. Then, an opportunity came to work at McCann Erickson in Jordan and he grabbed the chance.

When he learned he had won, he flew to the Philippines to claim his prize and also to pitch his script to the producers of ASEF. We wish him good luck in his attempt to get his script filmed.

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BRITNEY BACKLASH?

New teen pop queens reject sex-symbol status

By Nekesa Mumbi Moody

NEW YORK—Since Britney Spears arrived on the music scene three years ago, pop music has molded its teen queens according to three Bs—blondness, beauty and bustiers.

Notion

But a new crop of female singer-songwriters is challenging the notion that you have to bare your navel and cavort in tight clothes to be sexy and successful in pop music. Over the last year, Michelle Branch, Vanessa Carlton and Avril Lavigne have been dominating the charts by putting more of the focus on their music.

Call them the Anti-Britneys.

"I'm just saying I don't want to sell sex," says Lavigne, a 17-year-old from Ontario, Canada, whose debut disc, "Let's Go," has gone gold in a month's time. "I feel that's sort of lame and low. I've got so much more to say."

Fans are listening. In recent weeks, her first video, "Complicated," bested Spears' latest video, "Boys," on MTV's teen-frenzied "Total Request Live." Carlton, a 21-year-old piano-playing singer, has also been a mainstay on the show, along with the 19-year-old guitarist Branch, who sparked the trend when her disc, "The Spirit Room," was released last August. It has sold more than one million copies.

Oversaturated

"I think that a lot of people were really oversaturated with exactly the opposite of what we are," says Branch. "There were people dancing around who didn't write their own music, and really that's been kind of the marketplace for the last five years."

Tom Calderone, senior vice president of music and talent programming at MTV and MTV2, says of pop's new teen queens: "It has given the audience an opportunity to realize that not every pop star has to show their belly button, not every pop star has to be a waif, and pop stars can pick up instruments."

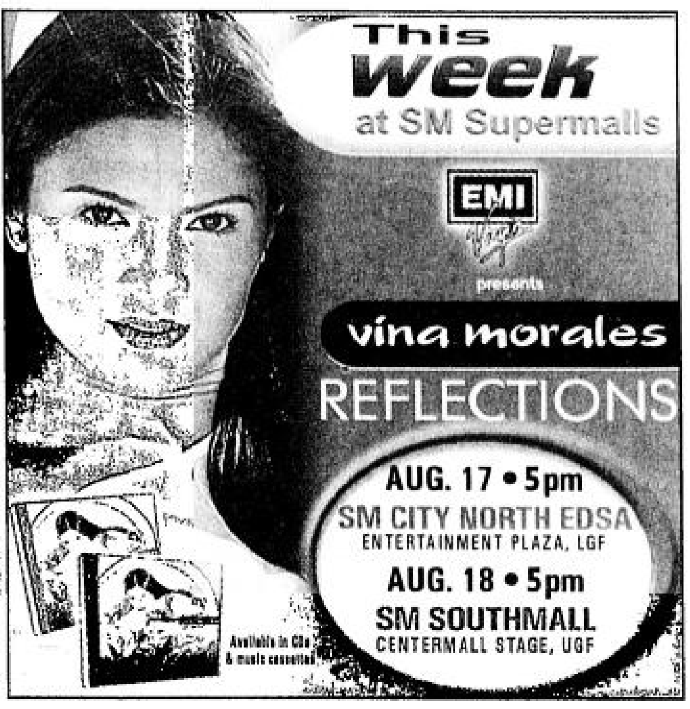
After Spears showed she could sell millions singing fluffy pop grooves with a Barbie image, there were plenty of others who followed: Christina Aguilera, Jessica Simpson, Mandy Moore, Willa Ford. Most of the teen groups, male and female, fit a similar mold—emphasizing style as much as song.

(The music of some other successful, female singer-songwriters—namely Alicia Keys, India.Arie and Nelly Furtado—was not geared to the teen-age audience.)

Then came the inevitable backlash. Teen pop's once white-hot sales have fallen off, and while Spears' latest album, "Britney," is still a top-seller with 3.8 million copies sold, it did not do as well as her previous discs.

AP

LAVIGNE. "I don't want to sell sex."



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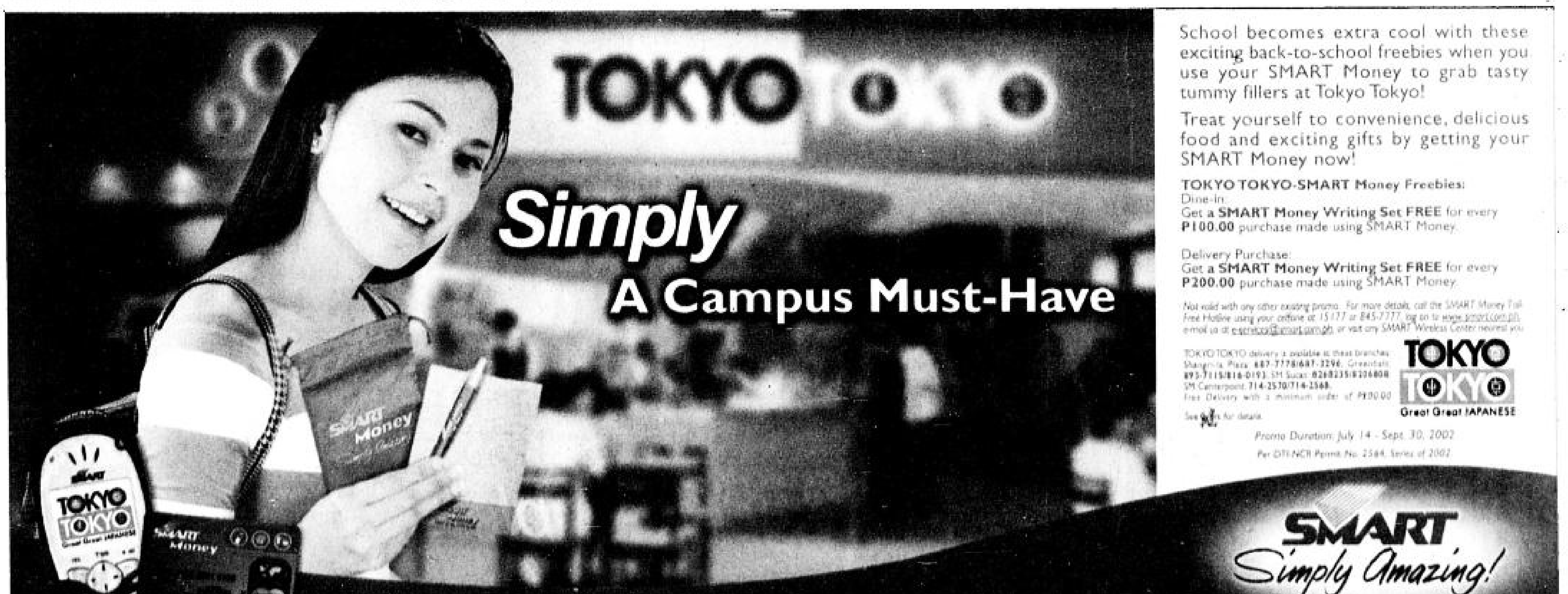

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Nestor U. Torre

FANS of Mitch Valdes will be delighted to know that the popular singer-comedienne is mounting her latest one-person show, "Mitch Valdes Rocks," at Onstage Greenbelt at 9 p.m. on Aug. 29.

Mitch became a Golden Girl last year, but has no intention of slowing down. Many of her contemporaries have run out of steam, but she's as vital as ever. In fact, she's even better now, because the sum total of her experiences has given her material and performances greater zest, insight and wit.

"SAMPAYAN NI INAY." Araceli Dans beside her latest prizewinning painting in watercolor.

Audiences love Mitch's comic monologues because they're based on her own antic experiences, or on the people and things she sees. In addition, her singing and acting talents punch in where her comedy leaves off, making her shows double the fun.

So, let's rock along with Mitch, the total-performance wiz, on Aug. 29. Call 891-5610.

TWM season is on

"The World of Music" (TWM) series of concerts begins its fifth season with two musical soirees to be held at The Podium at Ortigas Center, building up to a crescendo of three concerts at the Shangri-La Mall in Mandaluyong City.

Dubbed "TWM 5," the first of the concerts will be on Aug. 31 at 5 p.m., at the second level of The Podium, featuring Bo Razon and the Afro-Latin ensemble.

The soiree will trace the origin of some popular music forms such as rock and roll, mambo, blues, jazz and hip-hop to the ethnic beats of Africa.

The performance is called a musical soiree because it is designed to be a gathering of music lovers, and will encourage interaction between the performing artists and the audience.

The second soiree at The Podium is scheduled on Sept. 14 and will feature John Lesaca with guest NAMCYA-winning instrumentalists.

The "TWM 5" concert series of free public performances is presented by Montre, a watch store specializing in quality high-end Swiss watches. Co-sponsors are Podium, Rado, Tissot and Mido watches, and major partners include Timeline Service Center. Call 726-1953 or 726-1969.

Pinoy tot bags 2nd place in HK Digimon tilt

HE might not have brought home the proverbial bacon but 10-year-old Digimon wizard Vladlen Nataniel Tadeo of Sampaloc, Manila certainly brought singular honors to the country when he romped off with the second prize in the individual match in the Digimon Asia Cup held last July 27-28 at Discovery Park in Hong Kong.

Tadeo, a Grade IV student at the University of Santo Tomas, was one of the 20 finalists from 10 Asean countries who saw ac-

DOUBLE/ p. D3

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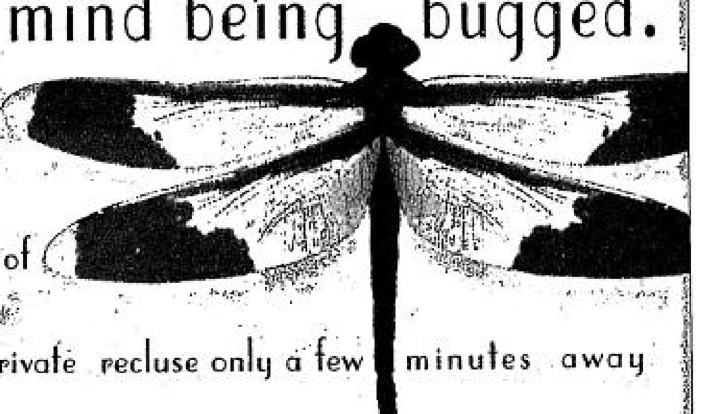

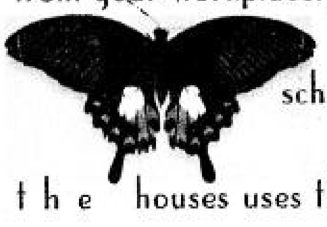

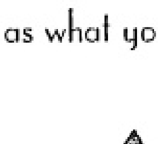

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Visit St. Alexandra Estate's Grand Open House on August 18, 2002

Double the fun . . .

From p. D2

KELLY GRACE and Cindy Rosas as "Black and White."

VLADLEN Nataniel Tadeo with the Digimon trophy and other prizes he received after winning second place in the Digimon Asia Cup tournament in Hong Kong.

tion in the two-day tournament.

Other contestants who transformed Digimon characters into more powerful pocket monsters came from Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, South Korea and Japan.

For his feat, Tadeo won a Digimon trophy, study encouragement cash prize worth $200, and Ban Dai toys worth $100.

Champion in the individual match was You Guo Xiong, 14, of China, while third place went to 14-year-old Lai Suel Lig of Malaysia.

Tadeo joined the Digimon classic in Hong Kong after winning the D-Power Digivice Challenge held recently at Toy Kingdom, SM Megamall under the auspices of Ban Kee Trading Inc.

'Black and White'

Two upcoming divas, Kelly Grace and Cindy Rosas, will perform in the "Black and White" musical show at 9 p.m. on Aug. 19 at Rembrandt Hotel's Downtown. Cindy has recorded "Sumisigaw" for Dyna Music, while Kelly Grace has waxed a duet with Nonoy Zuñiga.

"Black and White" will also be performed in other cities. Credits: script by Roy C. Iglesias, musical direction by Raffy O. Amaranto, and musical arrangements by Eric Narvaez.

Top watercolorist

Acclaimed veteran artist Araceli "Cheloy" Dans was recently hailed by Gallery Genesis as one of the five top watercolorists for 2002, in the 19th "Kulay sa Tubig" competition. Judges were Emmanuel Torres, Felipe de Leon Jr., Silvana Diaz, Alice Guillermo, Patrick Flores and Robert Kuan.

Since this is the third time Cheloy has won in the annual invitational tilt, she was elevated to the Hall of Fame. Congratulations!

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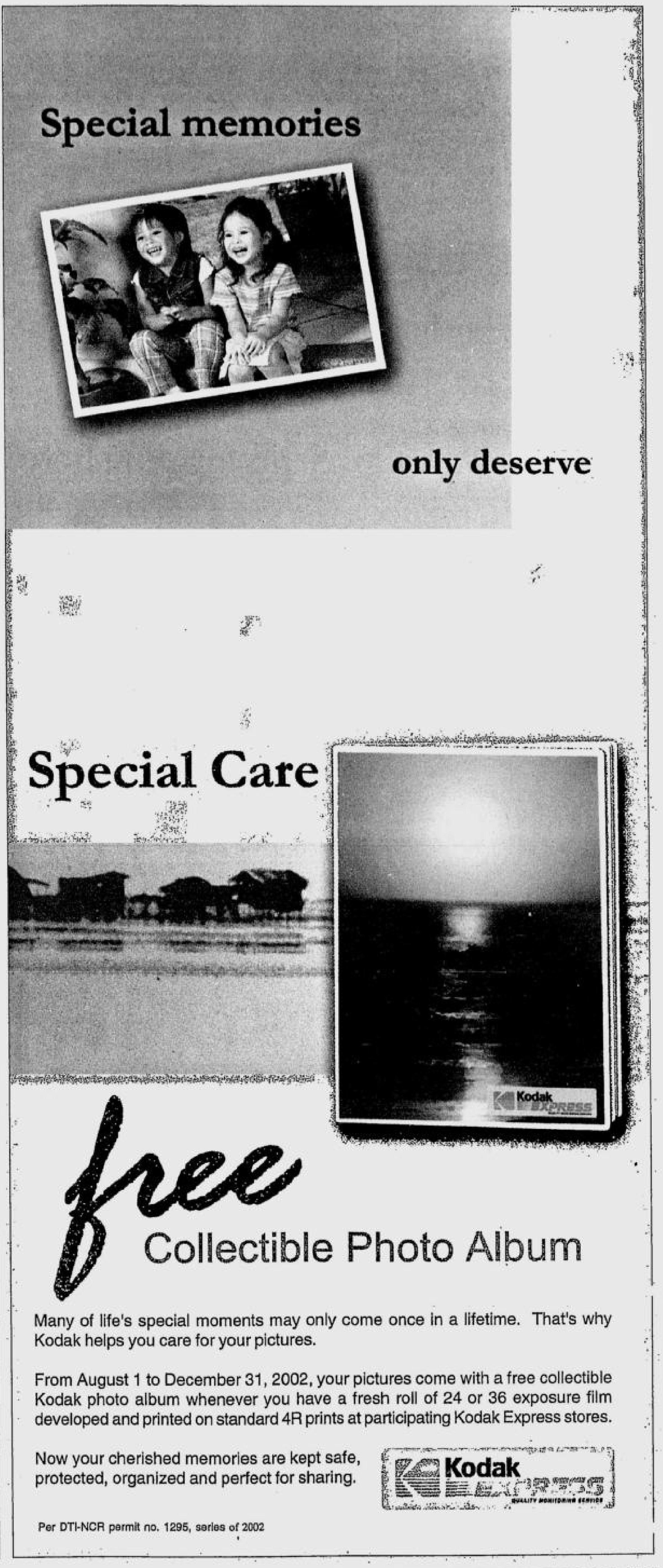

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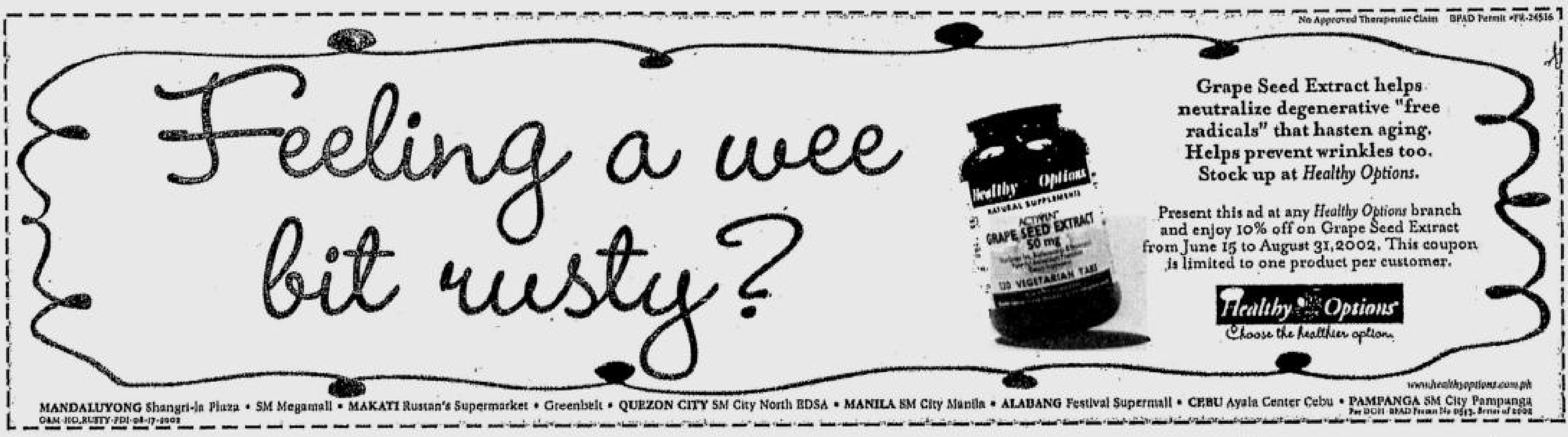

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Pilgrimage to Italy and France set this October

MOTHER Mary of the Passion, foundress of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, will be beatified by Pope John Paul II at the Vatican on Oct. 20. Devotees and followers of the Franciscan Way will witness the beatification rites during a pilgrimage tour organized by Journey of Faith Inc., from Oct. 16 to 28.

Mystical experience

Mother Mary was born Helen Marie Philippine de Chappotin in Nantes, France in 1839. While still a young girl, she dreamt of becoming a religious missionary. In 1860, she joined the Poor Clares, but after a mystical experience, she fell seriously ill and had to leave the nunnery.

In 1964, she joined the Sisters of Marie Reparatrice, where she received the name Mary of the Passion. She was sent to the mission in India and, at only 28 years, was made Provincial Superior of the Reparatrice Sisters in Madurai.

In 1876, her missionary vocation would be tested through a series of painful circumstances that led to her leaving the congregation. In charity, she opted to keep silent instead of defending herself.

Arriving in Rome, she submitted to the holy father her desire to found the congregation of the Missionaries of Mary, an institute exclusively devoted to mission work.

Challenge

Many postulants came to join the new congregation, because this was the period when involvement in distant and dangerous mission territories was a challenge being taken up by women religious.

Mother Mary sought to join her institute to the Franciscan order. It would now be called the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary. They would be sisters in love with Christ and totally given to the service of His people.

But this proved difficult to accomplish, after Mother Mary and her institute became the objects of violent opposition. Again, her intentions were misconstrued, and she was deposed as Mother General. Once more, no word of self-justification passed her lips.

Happily, Pope Leo XIII initiated a thorough reinvestigation of the case. In 1984, Rome decreed that Mary of the Passion be reelected as Superior General of her institute, and be recognized as the foundress of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary.

Since then, the order spread rapidly, as Mother Mary sent her sisters to Africa, Sri Lanka, China, France, England, the Congo, Mozambique, and many other countries.

In 1900, the blood of seven sisters was spilled in China, marking the order with the supreme gift of martyrdom. A century later, the martyrs were canonized as the first seven saints of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary.

76 countries

Today, the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary number 7,829 sisters in 810 communities in 76 countries. In the Philippines, the FMM sisters run a number of educational institutions.

Mary of the Passion died in 1904. Her love for God and the poorest of the poor all over the world has made her an inspiration to many. And now, her beatification on Oct. 20 will make her spiritual beacon light shine brighter still.

The chaplain in the Journey of Faith pilgrimage is the well-loved Fr. Renato Jose Lopez. The group departs for Rome on Oct. 16. It then proceeds on Oct. 17 and 18 to San Giovanni Rotondo, where Padre Pio, now Saint Pio, lived for many years. On Oct. 19, the group goes to the famous Blue Grotto in Capri, then travels back to Rome.

Beatification rites

Oct. 20, the group attends the beatification rites of Mary of the Passion at St. Peter's Square. After the rites, there is a guided tour of the tombs of the popes beneath St. Peter's Basilica, and of the Colosseum, where Mary of the Passion drew up the charter of the Missionaries of Mary.

Oct. 21, a visit to the Generalate of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary to see her tomb at the Blue Chapel. Then on to major basilicas in Rome. Oct. 22, on to Orvieto, where a Eucharistic miracle happened, and Assisi, where St, Francis was born, a place close to Mary of the Passion's heart.

MOTHER Mary of the Passion as a young girl (left), and as the foundress of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary.

Oct. 23 Pisa, San Remo (where Mary of the Passion died), and Nice. Oct. 24, Monaco, Monte Carlo, and Marseilles, where she was a novice. Oct. 25, Toulouse (where she joined the Congregation of Marie Reparatrice), and Lourdes.

Oct. 26, prayerful immersion in Lourdes, one of the greatest Marian pilgrimage sites in Europe. Oct. 27, free day for private devotions, and evening flight back to Manila via Paris.

For some pilgrims, the tour can extend to Bordeux, Nantes, Vannes, Mount St. Michel, Lisieux, Le Chatelet and Paris, until Nov. 2.

Call Journeys of Faith at 929-0144, 929-0155, telefax (02) 426-0601, or e-mail journeys@info.com.ph.

TWO FOR THE SHOW

Carla Guevarra loves performing here, but treasures London stint

By Mary Ann A. Bautista and Ricky T. Gallardo

CARLA Guevarra confirms that she's more comfortable with her singing career here than in London. But she treasures the memory of playing the lead role in "Miss Saigon" in London because her whole family flew over to watch her perform.

"Foreigners appreciate performers more, but I've always dreamed of performing in my own country," she shares.

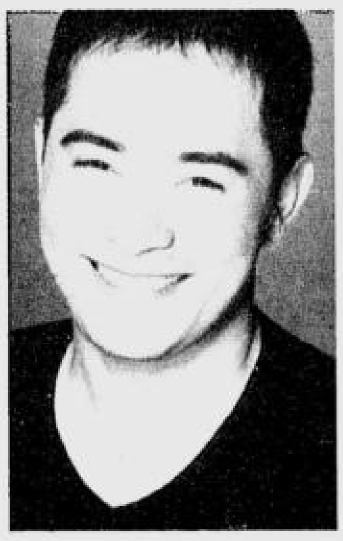
What sort of songs does she like to sing? "Pop and R&B," she volunteers. "I do love songs *na masakit*. But I also show the positive side of love."

Though her voice has a bell-like quality, Carla admits that she often neglects it. "I know I should not drink cold water before I perform, but I still do it. I know that I should sleep early and rest; *pero madalas pa rin akong lumalabas para gumimik. Kabaliktaran lahat ng ginagawa ko. Siguro nasanay na ang boses ko*," Carla shrugs.

Everything's comin' up silver for Sharon Cuneta

Tonight's your last chance to catch the once-in-a-lifetime silver anniversary concert of the megastar at the Araneta Coliseum.

Aptly billed as "The Mega Event," Cuneta has gathered only the most prominent names in the music world to perform with her. We recently asked her what she aims to achieve with her anniversary show, and she said in all humility, "I've always make it a point to try to affect people in the most positive way, whether through a song or a simple act, or just by being the person that I am. This keeps me focused and grounded."


MONTANO. "Everything happens when it's meant to."

It was Cesar Montano's 'Muro-Ami' video that clinched the role of Capt. Juan Pajota for him

Cesar Montano goes Hollywood

We had lunch with Hanford image model Cesar Montano during his quickie five-day break in Manila.

Cesar Montano's adrenaline was rocketing high as he recently recounted his wonderful experiences Down Under during training at a boot camp, and the first leg of filming for his Miramax movie, "The Great Raid."

It was the "Muro-Ami" video that Montano sent to director John Dahl that clinched the role of Capt. Juan Pajota for him, plus a three-picture deal with Miramax.

"I believe that everything happens when it's meant to, and I feel blessed that this could be the first step in making my dreams come true," he beams.

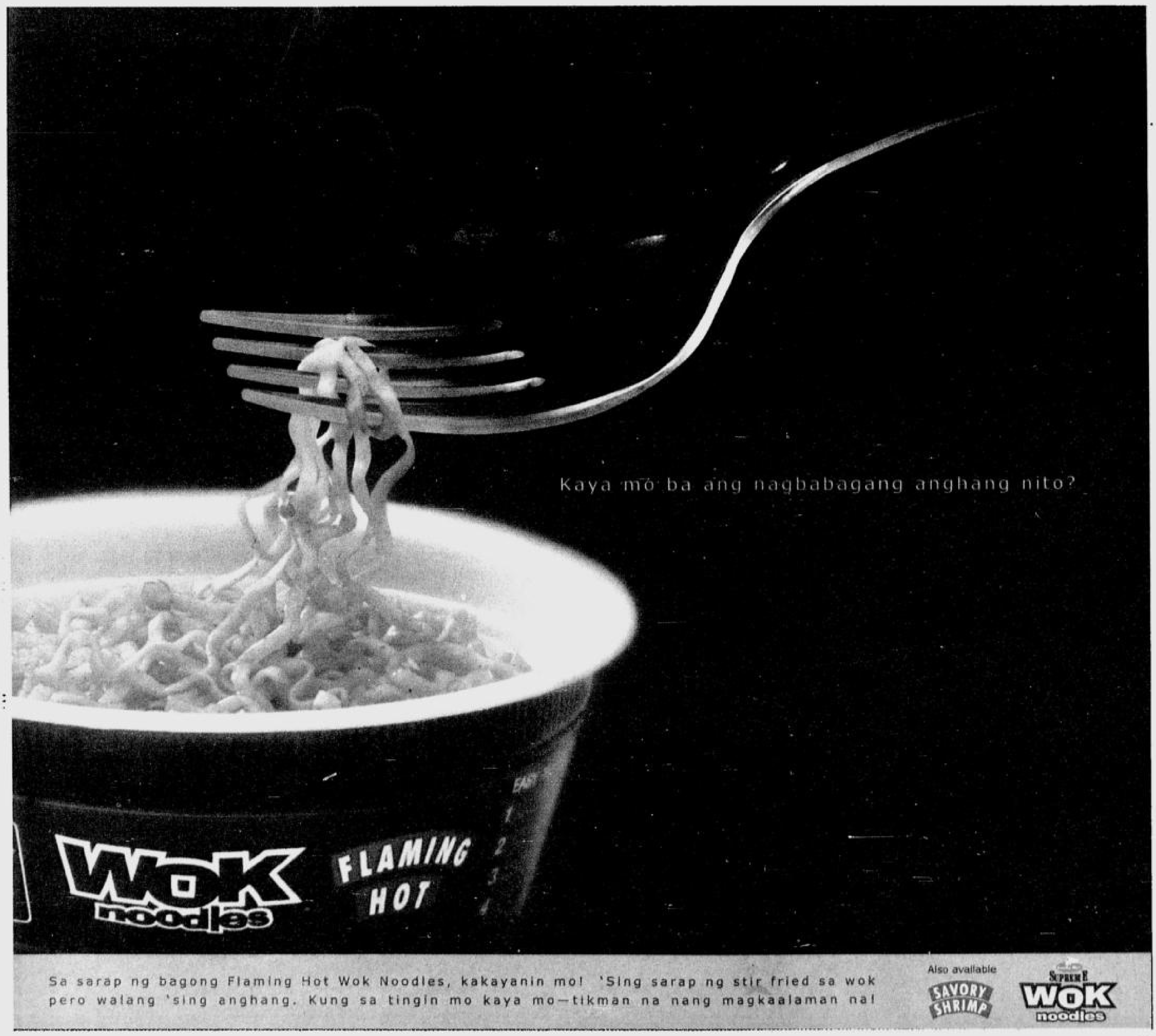
Montano stars with Joseph Fiennes, Benjamin Bratt and James Franco in this movie about Gen. Douglas MacArthur's secret raid on a prisoner of war camp in the Philippines.

Malik makes waves

We first knew Aliw's Best New Male Artist, Malik, as a vocalist who hopped from one band to another (Union, Soul Republic, Cool Wind) before he was launched as a solo singer early this year.

To support the hardworking talent, we even got a copy of his self-titled debut CD, which we rate above-average for a budding artist.

We specially like the songs "If You've Ever Been In Love" and "You Are My Heart," which was a "gift" composition by Brian McKnight. We hope that his Aliw award will serve as Malik's big push to further realize his dreams in the biz.


Kaya mo ba ang nagbabagang anghang nito?

Sa sarap ng bagong Flaming Hot Wok Noodles, kakayanin mo! 'Sing sarap ng stir fried sa wok pero walang 'sing anghang. Kung sa tingin mo kaya mo—tikman na nang magkaalaman na!

Things you don't know about Hugh Jackman

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

"I HAVE been a Hugh Jackman fan since he appeared in 'X-Men.' I was even more thrilled to see him in romantic roles, like in "Someone Like You" and "Kate and Leopold." Can you tell me more about Hugh? Where do I write him?—*Luisa Marie Nibunco, Sta. Rosa, Laguna.*

JACKMAN. Charismatic actor.

In the tradition of Mel Gibson, Guy Pierce and Russell Crowe, Australia once again sends to Hollywood (and the international film market) a charismatic acting import in Hugh Jackman.

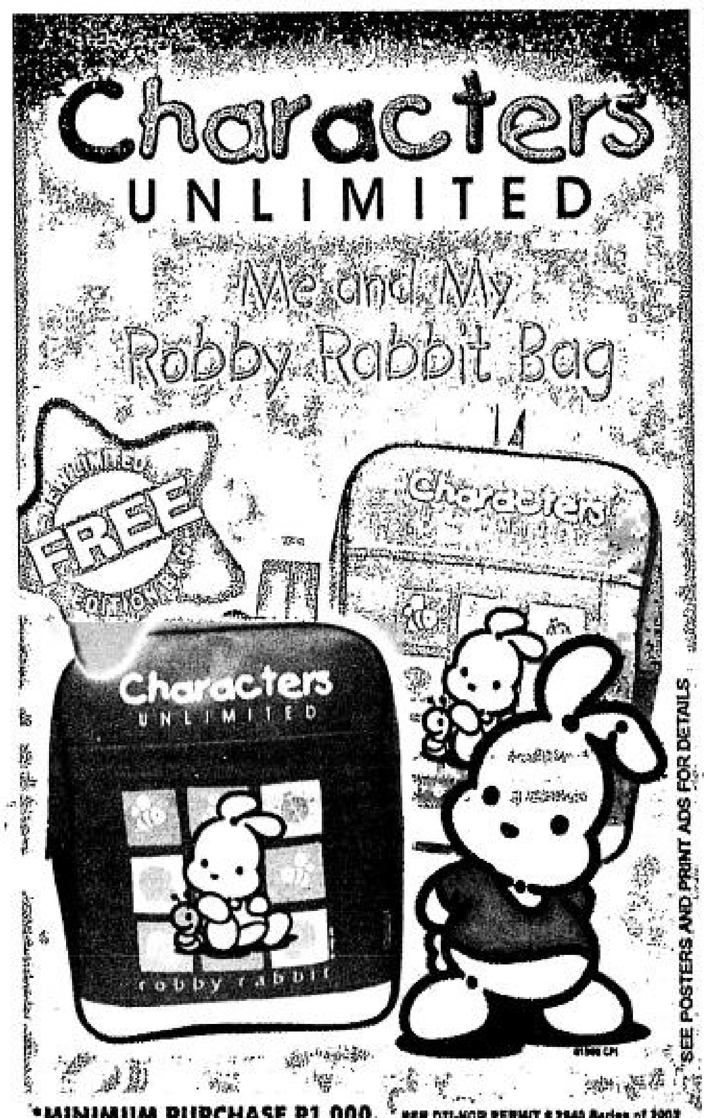
Winning ways

Jackman's handsome features and winning ways may have earned him a place in Hollywood's mainstream market, but nobody can say he's all looks, no talent.

Born to English parents in Australia, the 6'3" 33-year-old actor is the youngest of five children. He took a Communications course (major in journalism) at the University of Technology Sydney and pursued drama at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts.

Nope, he is not just another pretty face. He was an accomplished stage actor, in very popular musicals at that, long before he donned Wolverine's costume in Bryan

THINGS/ p. D7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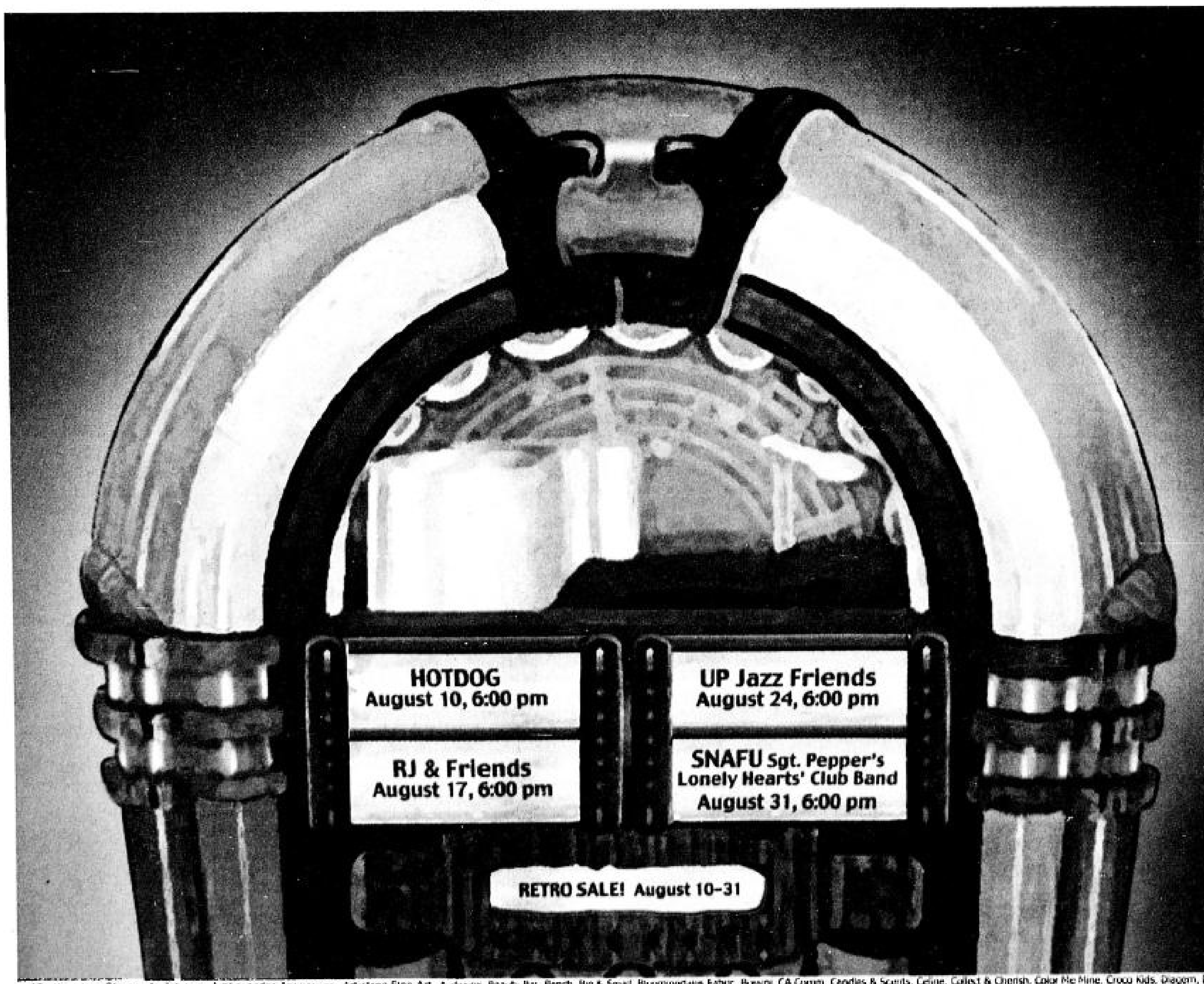
HOTDOG August 10, 6:00 pm
UP Jazz Friends August 24, 6:00 pm
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SNAFU Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts' Club Band August 31, 6:00 pm
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ENJOY THESE OTHER AUGUST ACTIVITIES: Harry Potter Tournament, 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., August 25, Grand Atrium; Cadbury Slot Car Grand Prix, 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., August 18, Grand Atrium; "HUBAD" An exhibit of Nude Paintings by the Saturday Group, August 17-30, Level 3 Shaw Side.

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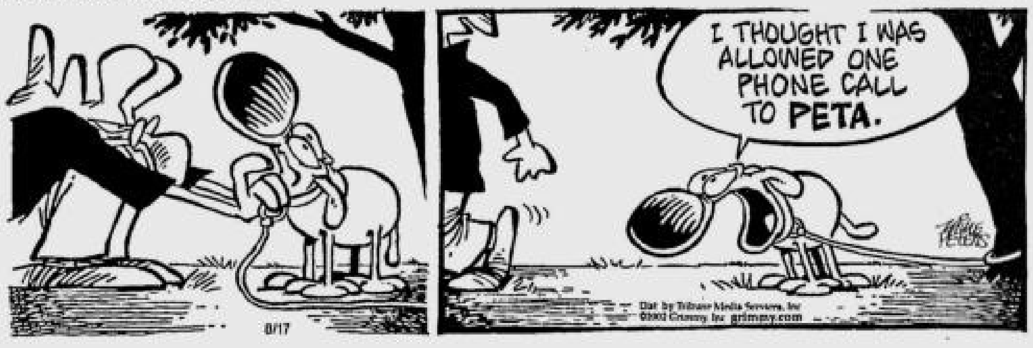
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS


I THOUGHT I WAS ALLOWED ONE PHONE CALL TO PETA.
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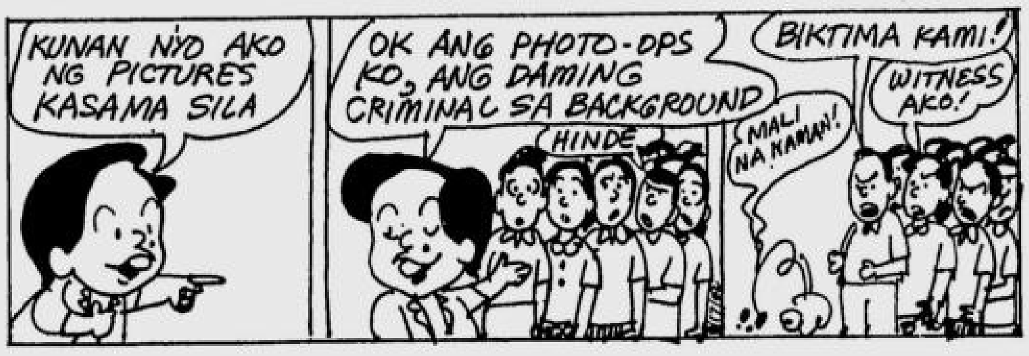
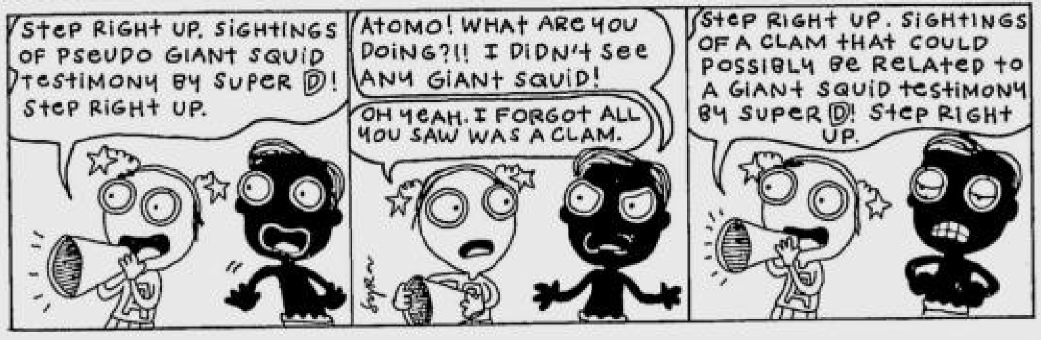
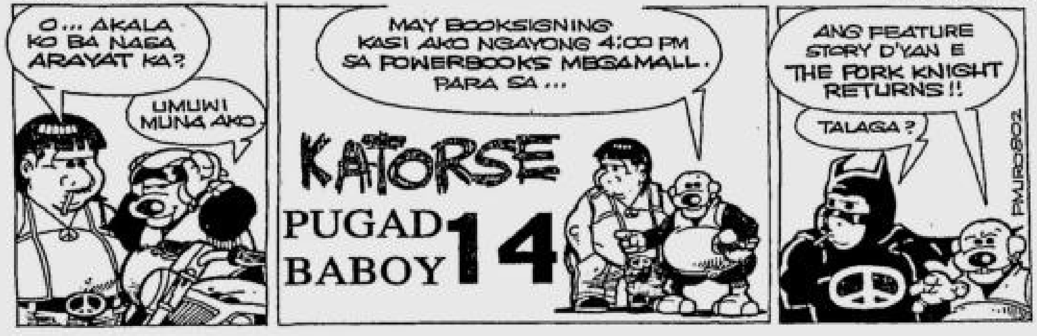
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


KUNAN NYO AKO NG PICTURES KASAMA SILA
OK ANG PHOTO-OPS KO, ANG DAMING CRIMINAL SA BACKGROUND
HINDE
MALI NA NAMAN!
BIKTIMA KAMI!
WITNESS AKO!

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Step RighT UP. SighTings of Pseudo GIANT SQUID TesTimony By Super D! STep RighT UP.
ATOMO! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!! I DIDN'T SEE ANY GIANT SQUID!
OH YEAH. I FORGOT ALL YOU SAW WAS A CLAM.
STep RighT UP. SighTings of A CLAM THAT COULD POSSIBLY BE RELATED TO A GIANT SQUID TesTimony By Super D! STep RighT UP.

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR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UMUWI MUNA AKO.
MAY BOOKSIGNING KASI AKO NGAYONG 4:00 PM SA POWERBOOKS MEGAMALL. PARA SA...
KATORSE
PUGAD BABOY 14
ANG FEATURE STORY D'YAN E THE PORK KNIGHT RETURNS!!
TALAGA?
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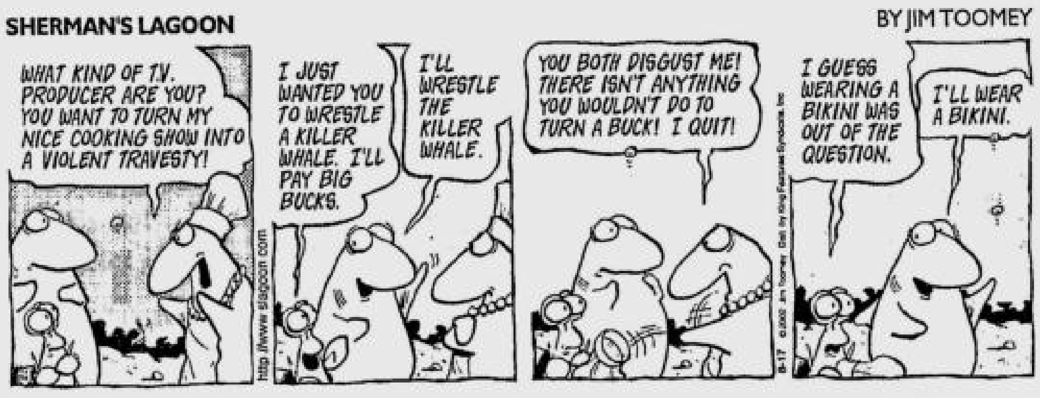
SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY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I JUST WANTED YOU TO WRESTLE A KILLER WHALE. I'LL PAY BIG BUCKS.
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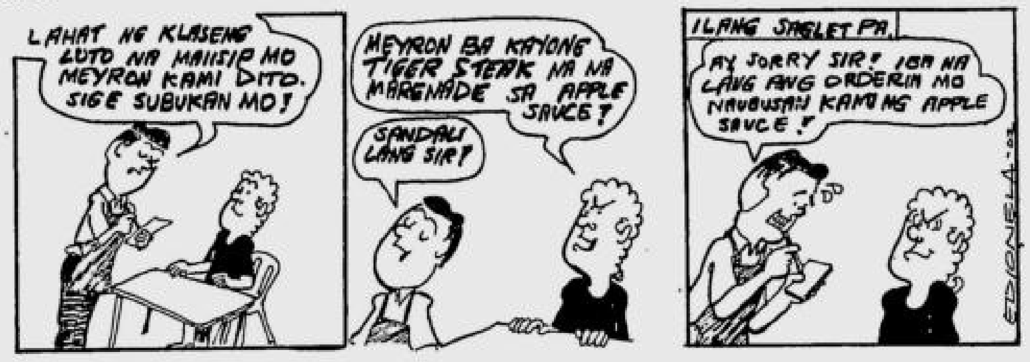
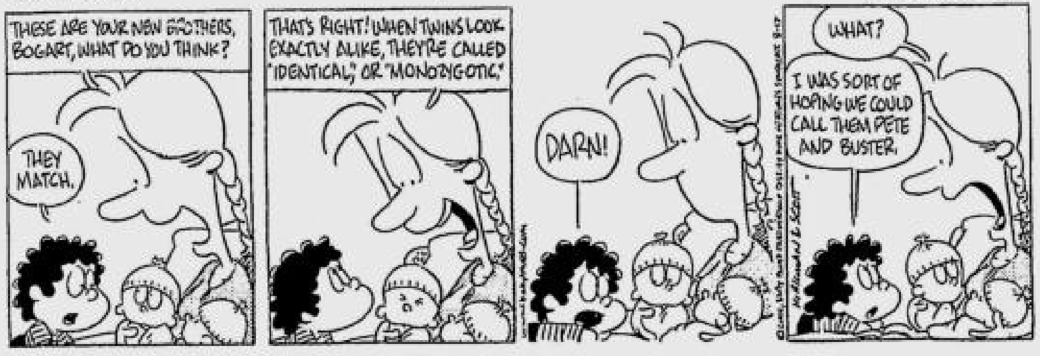
YOU BOTH DISGUST ME! THERE ISN'T ANYTHING YOU WOULDN'T DO TO TURN A BUCK! I QUIT!
I GUESS WEARING A BIKINI WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION.
I'LL WEAR A BIKINI.
http://www.slagoon.com

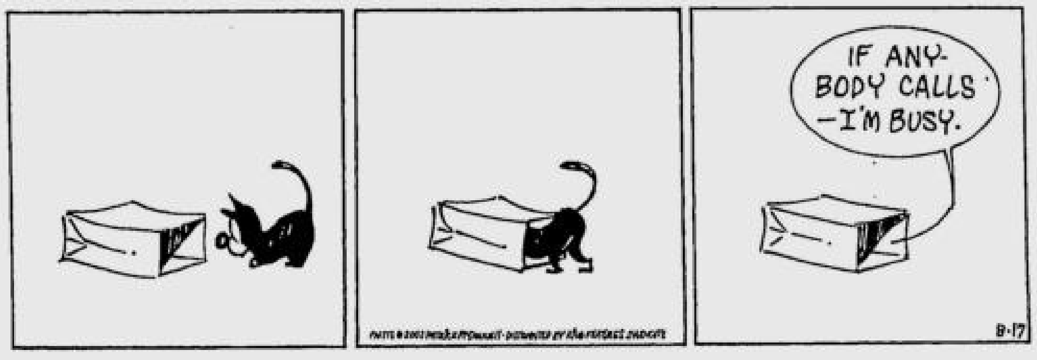
SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA


LAHAT NG KLASENG LUTO NA MAIISIP MO MEYRON KAMI DITO. SIGE SUBUKAN MO!
MEYRON BA KAYONG TIGER STEAK NA NA MARENADE SA APPLE SAUCE?
SANDALI LANG SIR!
ILANG SAGLET PA.
AY SORRY SIR! IBA NA LANG ANG ORDERIN MO NAUBUSAN KAMI NG APPLE SAUCE!
EDIONELA

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


THESE ARE YOUR NEW BROTHERS, BOGART, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
THEY MATCH.
THAT'S RIGHT! WHEN TWINS LOOK EXACTLY ALIKE, THEY'RE CALLED "IDENTICAL," OR "MONOZYGOTIC."
DARN!
WHAT?
I WAS SORT OF HOPING WE COULD CALL THEM PETE AND BUSTER.

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


IF ANY-BODY CALLS —I'M BUSY.
8-17

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Diahann Carroll, David Hasselhoff, Phyllis Diller

Happy Birthday: Your ability to pick up someone's feelings will help you understand both your business and personal relationships. Your closest partnerships will grow, enabling you to share more of your values with these particular people. don't let it affect the way you deal with those you love. Your numbers are 1, 4, 18, 27, 34, 45

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You will find it quite easy to make money today. You will be lucky when it comes to work, investments and financial matters. Family expenditures will be tempting, but think twice before you spend money.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You will be lucky when it comes to your professional career and advancement. Family expenditures will be tempting, but hold off until your financial situation is stable.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will incorporate creative flair into everything you do. You will find it easy to get along with others, and you will have some great ideas for improving yourself. Set your standards and don't lose sight of your goals.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You're likely to visit friends or family today, and you will go to great lengths to organize functions that will bring you all together. You'll be emotional, understanding and admired by others.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Sign up to learn something new. Your changing philosophy is opening your eyes to new and unusual lifestyles. Educational pursuits will pay off in more ways than one. Travel and communication will be to your advantage.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your increased willpower will lead to professional advancement today. Try to establish a good rapport with individuals who are in positions of power and authority. Be careful what you do at a personal level.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your personal relationships will be harmonious today. You need to take some time to regenerate and decide what you want to do with the rest of your life. Changes to your residence will turn out favorably.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You'll have a greater understanding today of what makes you who you are. You'll know your capabilities and your limits. Being in tune with yourself will contribute your success.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Get involved in social activities today that include your whole family. You will lean toward creative hobbies that will enhance yourself.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll want to help everyone you come in contact with. Your bleeding heart will be a target for charlatans if you aren't discriminating. You will be attracted to organizations that deal with issues that concern you.

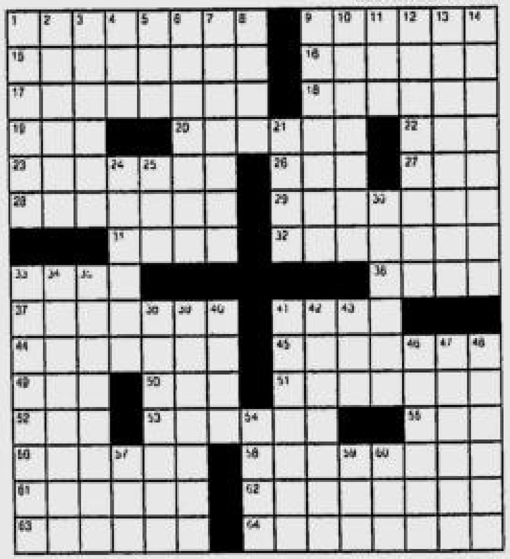
AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18): You will be fascinated by different cultures or traditional beliefs today. Attend a cultural event and discover more about the way others live. This is a great day to become aware of what's going on around you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will feel insecure when it comes to money matters. Your determination to crusade for a worthy cause may be looked down upon by close friends. Don't push your opinions on others.

Birthday Baby: You will not settle for anything less than exactly what you want. You will get the variety you like no matter what it takes

DAILY CROSSWORD

IMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Tom Pruce
Chicago, IL
8/17/02

ACROSS
1 Worn out
9 First match
15 In flight
16 Secondhand deal
17 Least adorned
18 Abounded
19 Favorite
20 Lady of the cloth
22 Gabor of "Green Acres"
23 Sponged
26 __ Khan IV
27 Erie Canal mule
28 Along the way
29 Tycoon
31 Not as much
32 Smoother and glossier
33 Qum coin
36 "The Day of the Locust" author Nathanael
37 As a group
41 Muscle pain
44 Truncate
45 Till now
49 Dutch painter Gerard __ Borch
50 Ruckus
51 Rich ice cream with eggs and chopped fruit
52 "Just the Way You __"
53 Decorative dangler
55 Possessive pronoun
56 Scram!
58 Responsive to advice
61 Whole
62 Loller
63 Long scarves
64 Fastening devices

DOWN
1 Mottle with spots
2 Heckart or Herlie
3 Impact depression
4 Diamond stat
5 Very long period
6 Adjusts gauges beforehand
7 Guts
8 Vietnamese holidays
9 Cape on the Bay of Biscay
10 Nobility
11 Language suffix
12 Junior, to senior
13 Lifts
14 Danger signal
21 Highland hats
24 Neck band
25 Property of color
30 Most recent
33 Puts on a theatrical revival
34 Intrinsic
35 Cupid
38 Upright height
39 Puts to sleep
40 Slaughter of baseball
41 Endeavor
42 Acute infectious disease
43 Charlton Heston movie, "Ben __"
46 Minor weakness
47 Protuberance on the head
48 Stair elements
54 Insolent rejoinder
57 Lubricant
59 Snooze
60 Cobbler's pointed tool

Friday's Puzzle Solved

H	A	N	S		S	P	I	C	E		O	T	I	S
A	W	O	L		A	R	G	O	N		D	A	S	H
L	A	V	A		D	O	N	A	T		D	R	N	O
T	R	A	N	C	E	F	I	X	E	D		O	T	T
S	E	E	T	O		I	T	E	R	A	N	T		
			S	T	O	L	E	S		L	A	R	G	E
P	O	S			H	E	R		Z	E	R	O	E	D
S	C	H	I	S	M	S		D	I	S	C	O	R	D
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		A	R	A	P	A	H	O		R	E	L	E	E
S	A	N		C	O	N	J	U	R	E	E	E	L	S
K	A	Y	E		S	C	O	N	E		K	N	I	T
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S	P	U	D		E	D	G	E	D		D	O	E	R

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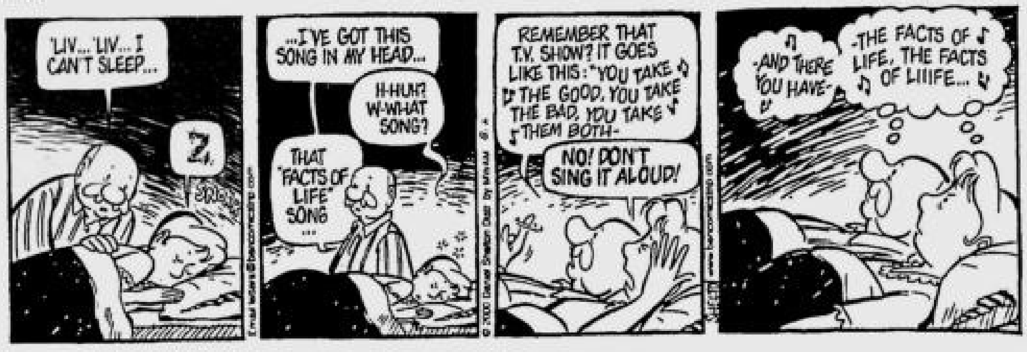
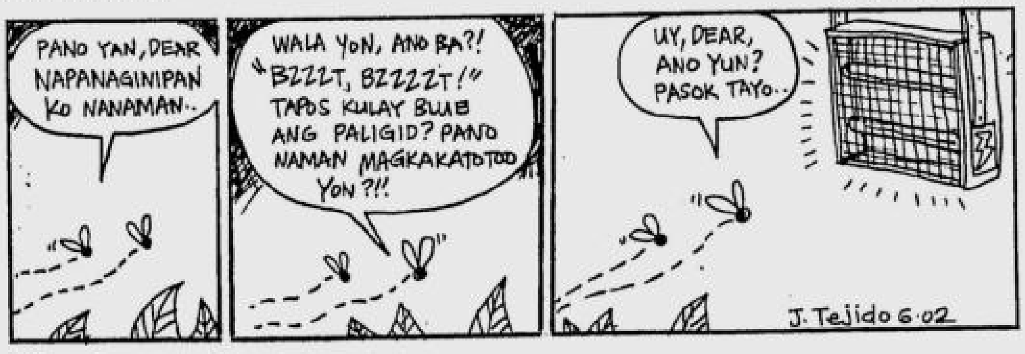
8/17/02

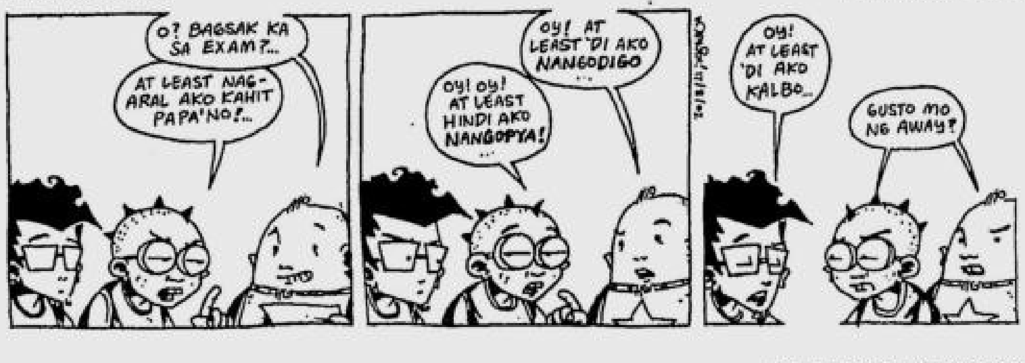
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


'LIV...'LIV... I CAN'T SLEEP...
Z
...I'VE GOT THIS SONG IN MY HEAD...
H-HUH? W-WHAT SONG?
THAT "FACTS OF LIFE" SONG ...
REMEMBER THAT T.V. SHOW? IT GOES LIKE THIS: "YOU TAKE THE GOOD, YOU TAKE THE BAD, YOU TAKE THEM BOTH-
NO! DON'T SING IT ALOUD!
-AND THERE YOU HAVE-
-THE FACTS OF LIFE, THE FACTS OF LIIIFE...

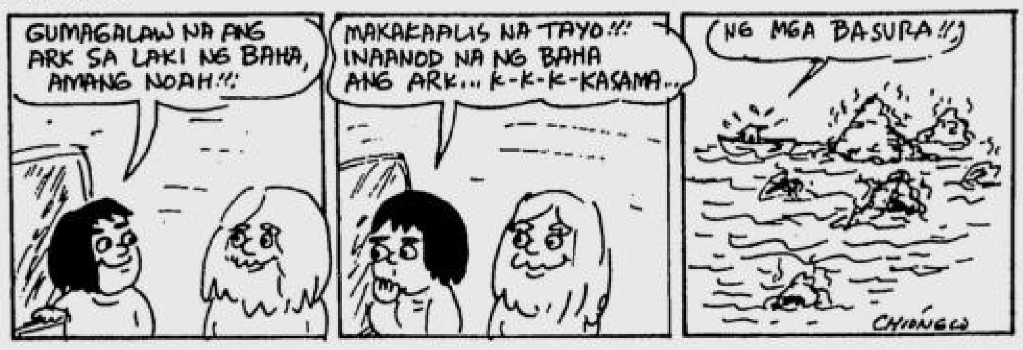
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


PANO YAN, DEAR NAPANAGINIPAN KO NANAMAN..
WALA YON, ANO BA?! "BZZZT, BZZZZT!" TAPOS KULAY BLUE ANG PALIGID? PANO NAMAN MAGKAKATOTOO YON?!!
UY, DEAR, ANO YUN? PASOK TAYO..
J. Tejido 6.02

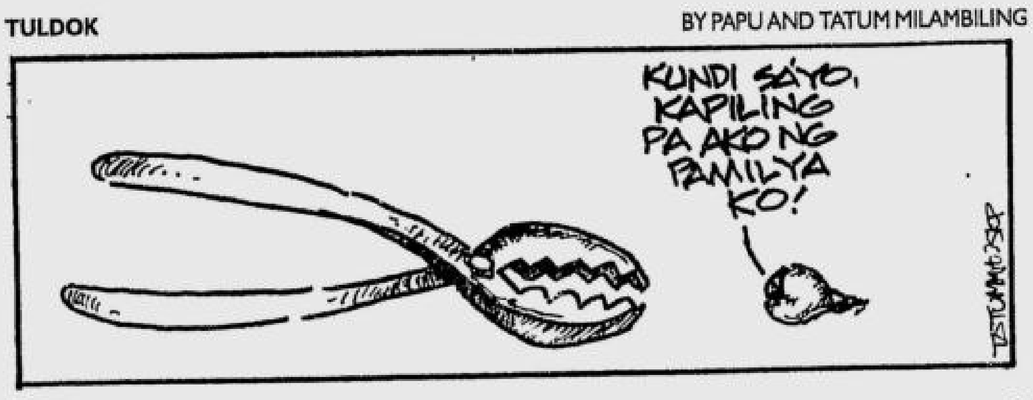
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


O? BAGSAK KA SA EXAM?...
AT LEAST NAG-ARAL AKO KAHIT PAPA'NO!...
OY! AT LEAST 'DI AKO NANGODIGO
OY! OY! AT LEAST HINDI AKO NANGOPYA!
OY! AT LEAST 'DI AKO KALBO...
GUSTO MO NG AWAY?

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


GUMAGALAW NA ANG ARK SA LAKI NG BAHA, AMANG NOAH!!!
MAKAKAPLIS NA TAYO!!! INAANOD NA NG BAHA ANG ARK... K-K-K-KASAMA...
(NG MGA BASURA!!)
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


KUNDI SA'YO, KAPILING PA AKO NG PAMILYA KO!

First-timer Quark Henares directs Viva's 'Gamitan'

HENARES. No flowery dialogue.

By Edmund L. Sicam

QUARK Henares is one lucky guy. While other hopefuls wait a long time to direct their first movie project, this 21-year-old gets to handle a project for a major movie company. Viva Films, which is known for giving breaks to young talents, has entrusted Quark with its latest bold movie, "Gamitan," the first solo starrer of Maui Taylor.

Quark looks more like a cleancut business executive than a creative person. He is named after the smallest particle in the universe, next only to an atom, which is the name of his father, who is a broadcaster. His mom is cosmetologist Dr. Vicky Belo, who, he says, has a walk-on part in the movie.

Expensive toy

When we interviewed him, he initially sounded like a rich man's spoiled kid who had just been given an expensive toy. But, when he started discussing "Gamitan," he convinced us that he could indeed direct a movie. He's proud of the script because there's none of the usual flowery dialogue one hears in soaps and movie dramas. The characters speak like real persons. Also, no one gets slapped, though some of the characters are murdered.

The opportunity knocked on his door when he wrote the script for "Gamitan" as a vehicle for Lyle Sacris, who directed "Akala Mo" with Judy Ann Santos and Dingdong Dantes. When Lyle couldn't fit the movie into his schedule, Viva offered the project to Quark. The young director told us he had no second thoughts about accepting the assignment, since he felt he was ready to do the job.

And just what kind of preparation did he have for this venture? Well, he has an undergraduate degree in Communication Technology from the Ateneo de Manila University. It was here where he met Marilou Diaz-Abaya who got him to work as production assistant for "Bagong Buwan." Afterwards, he took a three-month certificate course at the New York Academy.

He has done several music videos but not for any of the bigger artists, and completed a short film called "A Date with Jao Mapa." The film impressed Viva executives and was part of the reason "Gamitan" was offered to him.

Unlike indie films where he pretty much dictated what would come out on screen, he had to work with the limitations imposed on him by Viva. He could not do flashbacks because audiences could get confused by them. The story could not be told in a non-linear fashion for the same reason. And characters could not talk directly to the camera. Quark said he could live with those limitations.

Like any director, he did not get to do everything that he had planned due to budget and time constraints, but he is proud of his initial work. He was also not used to working with a big crew ("There were as many as 30 people involved in a scene at one time,") because his indie films involved only a few people.

Sex-thriller

Unlike Sacris, who got a light bubblegum romance for his initial project, Quark worked on a sex-thriller. How did he prepare for the more intimate scenes? "I viewed movies like 'Basic Instinct,' 'The Lover,' 'Blue Velvet' and the films of Erik Matti," he replied.

Shooting his first bold scene, he asked Maui if this was her first sex scene and she replied in the affirmative. "It's my first, too," said Quark with a nervous grin. If the trailer is any indication, Quark passed his inititiation with flying colors.

One of the fringe benefit of working on this movie was the opportunity to work with Patricia Javier, whom Quark admires. At one point, Viva told him Patricia could not work on the project because she was busy, but he begged and cajoled the powers-that-be to give the sexy star time to do "Gamitan." To his relief, Patricia made it to the movie, even though she's only seen in the first 10 minutes.

How sexy is the movie? "It's so sexy I thought I was a maniac. I thought I was already doing raunchy stuff, but they asked me to add some more," Quark shared. Where does he get his raunchy ideas? He let out a big laugh and said, "I'd rather not discuss that."

Quark's success with this project will depend partly on what the MTRCB will do to his movie. He told us, however, that he had shot tamer scenes, just in case some of the sexier sequences are disapproved.

Viewers' take on local TV drama shows

By Noelani Torre

WE Pinoys are a gossipy lot, we like to know all about the lives of our neighbors, and the more *ma*-drama they are, the better. We like to sympathize with unfortunate beings, also because we really feel sympathetic but sometimes because we are relieved that we aren't as unfortunate as them.

And if we can't get our fix from everyday life, well, there's always television and its daily offerings of drama shows that their producers assure us will touch our hearts, break them, etc.

Ratings

There have always been drama shows, it seems, and it looks like they'll be here for a while, although cable television has affected their ratings somewhat.

We recently asked some viewers about their positive and negative thoughts on our homegrown TV dramas. Their (hopefully helpful) answers:

Gimmick

"I like 'Maalaala Mo Kaya" best *kasi mas kapani-paniwala ang* stories nila. *Galing talaga kasi sa mga* letters *ng mga totoong tao. Gusto ko rin yung* game gimmick *nila, yung i-te-*text *mo yung* guess *mo kung ano kaya ang* title ng episode. *May dagdag pang* audience participation.

"*Pinaka-ayoko yung* extremes *ng ibang* drama shows—*mga sobrang maarte*, forever *iyakan. 'Di naman gano'n sa totoong buhay. Nakakairita. Tapos wala namang* sense *yung pag-iyak nila. Mas maayos talaga sa* 'Maalaala.'

"*Meron akong napanood na* episode *dati na si* Pops *yung bida. Simple lang ang kawento—tungkol sa* school life, crushes, embarrassment, *mga bagay na pwedeng mangyari kahit kanino, at* believable *ang mga* reactions ng mga characters. Once *lang yata nagkaroon ng iyakan, pero totoong-totoo naman, tsaka* justifiable."—*Nanette Monteposo, Bacolod City*

Too melodramatic

"*Hindi ko gusto na masyadong* melodramatic *ang lahat ng mga* characters *sa* usual drama shows. *Lagi na lang silang umiiyak, galit, at inaapi. Nakakasawa! Pero* sometimes their depiction of the Filipino way of life or lifestyle is somewhat realistic. *Kaya siguro meron pa rin talagang nanonood, pero ako, hindi na masyado ngayon.*"—*Cris Tupas, Cebu City*

Exaggerations

"I don't like the extreme and melodramatic exaggerations of most drama show plotlines. And the fact that the male leads cry at the slightest provocation. If that happened in real life, there wouldn't be any real men left. It's too much to take, especially when they also have hysterical female characters.

"I prefer shows that derive their plots from things that have happened to actual people, something like what they have in 'Maalaala,' for example. I'm not really a fan of drama shows, but my female friends watch them and sometimes I don't have a choice but to watch, too. Of all the shows, I think 'Maalaala' is the only one that isn't always corny."—*Raul Penaflor, Olongapo (To be concluded)*

Things . . .

From p. D5

Singer's "X-Men" and stole John Travolta's thunder in "Swordfish."

Credits

His credits as a singer/stage actor include: the handsome and vain Gaston in "Beauty and the Beast;" the out-of-work gigolo-screenwriter Joe Gillis in "Sunset Boulevard" (which earned him three Best Actor awards from different theater guilds in Australia); the rowdy carousel barker Billy Bigelow in "Carousel," and Curly in Trevor Nunn's "Oklahoma," which earned him an Olivier nomination in London.

His next film is "Standing Room Only," directed by his wife Deborra-Lee Furness (whom he met on the set of the ABC prison drama, "Corelli." They married in 1996, and have one adopted son, Oscar Maximillian.). And, of course, he's in the highly anticipated sequel, "X-Men 2." Write him: c/o The Endeavor Agency, 9701 Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hills, California 90212.

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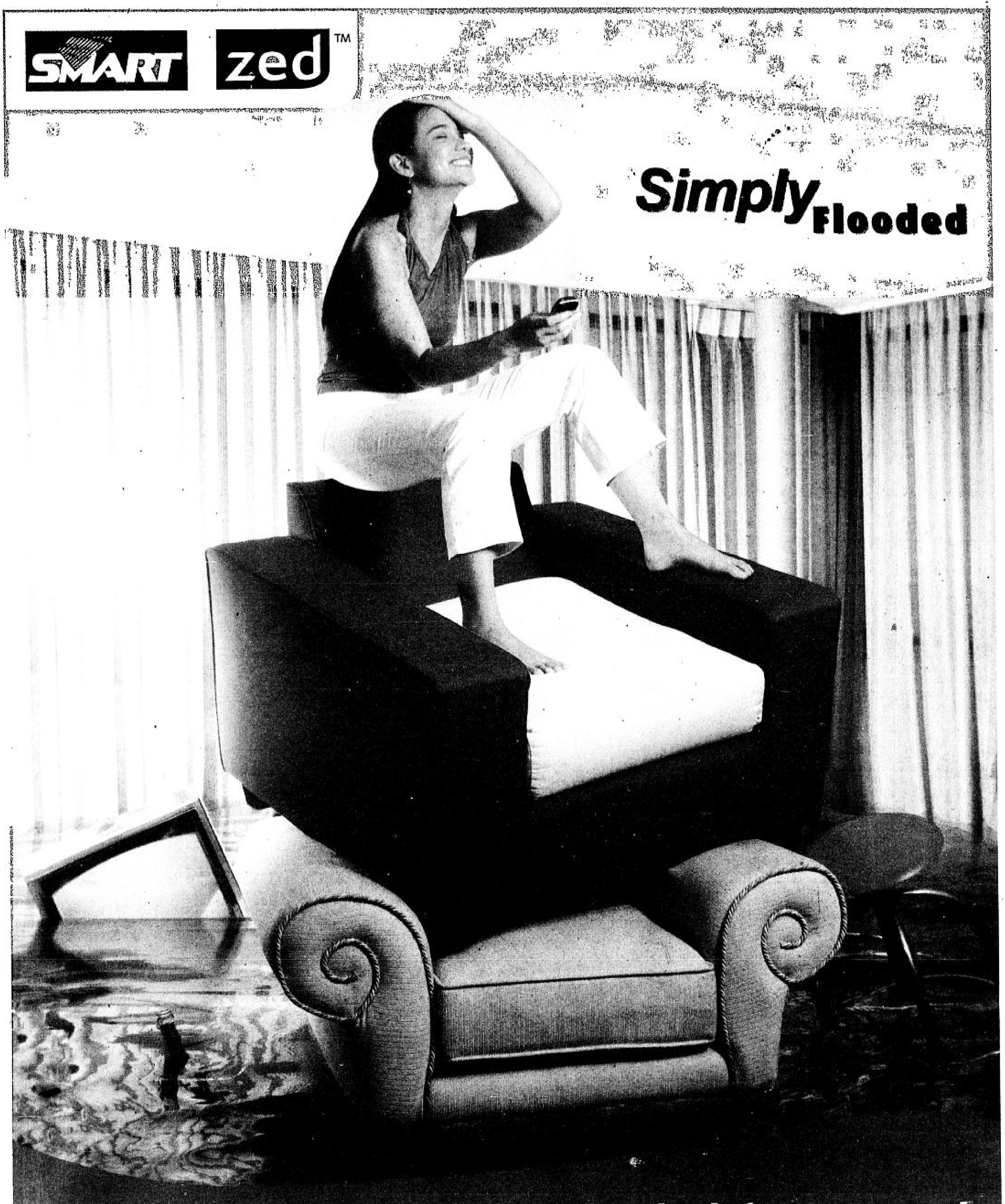
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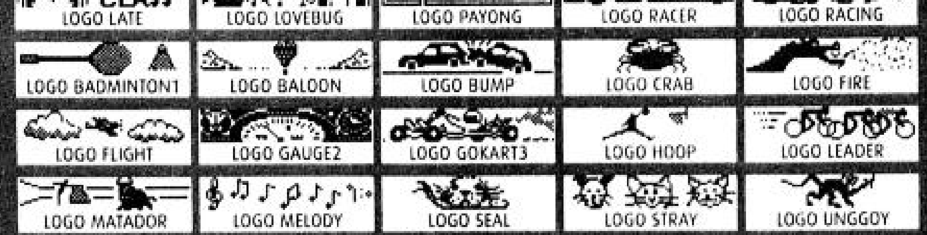
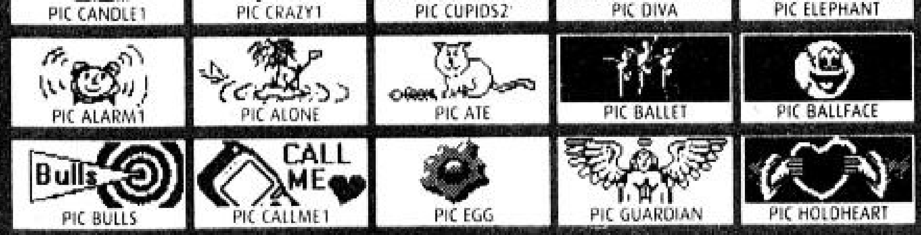

LOGO TRIBALEYE
LOGO XTREME
LOGO BOO2
LOGO BOOKS
LOGO BUS
LOGO EXPLORER
LOGO FOOD
LOGO GATOR
LOGO JESUS2
LOGO JET
LOGO LATE
LOGO LOVEBUG
LOGO PAYONG
LOGO RACER
LOGO RACING
LOGO BADMINTON1
LOGO BALOON
LOGO BUMP
LOGO CRAB
LOGO FIRE
LOGO FLIGHT
LOGO GAUGE2
LOGO GOKART3
LOGO HOOP
LOGO LEADER
LOGO MATADOR
LOGO MELODY
LOGO SEAL
LOGO STRAY
LOGO UNGGOY

PICTURE MESSAGES


Tali ka na!
PIC TALI
TONGUETIED
PIC TONGUE
QWERTY type kita
PIC TYPEKITA
You're Cute
PIC URCUTE
i care for you
PIC ANGELS
PIC CANDLE1
Crazy U 4
PIC CRAZY1
Who is the one?
PIC CUPIDS2
DIVA
PIC DIVA
PIC ELEPHANT
PIC ALARM1
PIC ALONE
PIC ATE
PIC BALLET
PIC BALLFACE
Bulls
PIC BULLS
CALL ME
PIC CALLME1
PIC EGG
PIC GUARDIAN
PIC HOLDHEART

RINGTONES

More Than That
Backstreet Boys
TONE MORETHAN

Eternal Flame
Bangles
TONE ETERNAL

Army
Ben Folds Five
TONE ARMY

Yakety Sax (The Benny Hill Show)
Boots Randolph
TONE YAKETYSAX

Girls Just Wanna Have Fun
Cyndi Lauper
TONE GRLSJUST

True Colors
Cyndi Lauper
TONE TRUECOLORS

Never a Day (Serendipity)
Theme from Serendipity
TONE NEVERADAY

Ain't It Funny
Jennifer Lopez
TONE AINTITFUN

Gambler
Kenny Rogers
TONE GAMBLER

I Wanna Be With You
Mandy Moore
TONE IWANNAB

Brand New Man
Brooks and Dunn
TONE BRANDNEW

Jezebel
Chely Wright
TONE JEZEBEL

We Don't Talk Anymore
Cliff Richard
TONE WEDONTTALK

Wired For Sound
Cliff Richard
TONE WIREDFOR

Marrakesh Express
Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young
TONE MARRAKESH

Teach Your Children
Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young
TONE TEACHUR

Insatiable
Darren Hayes
TONE INSATIABLE

Solo En Ti (Only you)
Enrique Iglesias
TONE ONLYYOU

Games People Play
Joe South
TONE PIPOLPLAY

Killing Me Softly With His Song
Roberta Flack, Fugees
TONE KILLINGME

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SATURDAY*Special*

Jennifer Aniston flaunts dark side in 'The Good Girl'

By Anthony Breznican

LOS ANGELES—Jennifer Aniston is showing off her unfriendly side.

In the new film "The Good Girl," the sweetheart co-star of "Friends" backs away from her glamorous TV image to play a dejected, small-town woman who turns to adultery to lash out at the people in her monotonous life.

Safe haven

"I've always performed more on the comedic side because it was a safe haven, and it made me feel good," Aniston said. "So it was a challenge for me to explore that side of myself, which we all have, which is sometimes sad, and dark and depressed."

Her frustrated character, Justine, starts an affair with a younger co-worker (Jake Gyllenhaal) at the Retail Rodeo discount store and is later blackmailed into having sex with a sleazy acquaintance who discovers her secret.

Justine's life comes apart as she learns she is pregnant—and her oblivious, dope-smoking husband (John C. Reilly) discovers he is sterile.

Although the filmmakers describe "The Good Girl" as a dark comedy, the only light moments come from supporting characters, like Zooey Deschanel as a deadpan, chatty cosmetics girl and Tim Blake Nelson playing a vile, lecherous house painter.

Justine is unremittingly morose and angry.

Monotone

"I see in your eyes that you hate the world," she says in monotone to her illicit young lover. "I hate it, too . . . You know what I'm talking about?"

Aniston also performs sex scenes, including one with Nelson in which he is constantly yelling at his barking dog.

"It takes a lot of courage for Jennifer, who's been so successful creating an image of herself in our culture, to dispense with all that and perform this role in a way that considered the character first and 'Jennifer Aniston: movie star' second," Nelson said.

With "Friends" entering its ninth and final season, Aniston said she was eager to show she can do more than just romantic comedy after nearly a decade of playing Rachel Green on the sitcom.

"(Rachel) is like an old, comfy shoe—like an old coat, or an old robe, where it's just comfortable and familiar and cozy," Aniston said.

Aniston's starring movie roles (in 1997's "Picture Perfect" and 1998's "The Object of My Affection") featured her in much the same way: a beautiful young woman looking for love.

"That was what kept presenting itself . . . but I felt like I'd done that," she said. "I just wanted someone to maybe take a chance, and think it would be fun to mess with that image a little."

Interest

Director Miguel Arteta and screenwriter Mike White, who teamed on the 2000 independent film "Chuck & Buck," acknowledged that Aniston wasn't the actress they envisioned for "The Good Girl."

When she expressed interest in the part, however, Arteta said he liked her idea of twisting her clean-cut public persona.

"I think the contrast is good because the character Justine is doing so many morally insane things, at times she's making some pretty bad decisions, and to have somebody playing her who is known as sweet and funny, that makes the audience go along with it more," Arteta said.

Aniston, 33, daughter of soap-opera star John Aniston of NBC's "Days of Our Lives," worked as a telemarketer and receptionist while auditioning for roles. After a supporting part on the short-lived TV spin-off "Ferris Bueller" in 1990 and a role in the 1993 horror film "Leprechaun," she auditioned for an ensemble sitcom called "Friends Like These."

With the title shortened to "Friends," the series about six pals in Manhattan who become a makeshift family while trying to navigate their love lives and careers became television's No. 1 comedy.

Nominations

Each member of the main cast now makes more than $1 million per episode, and Aniston, Matt LeBlanc and Mattew Perry recently received Emmy nominations for lead comedy performances.

The past "Friends" season ended with a cliffhanger after Aniston's character gave birth to a daughter fathered by on-again, off-again boyfriend Ross (David Schwimmer.)

When dopey, kindhearted Joey (LeBlanc), who has nursed a crush on her, discovers a ring near her hospital bed, she immediately says "yes" to what she thinks is a marriage proposal—not realizing that the ring was dropped by Ross.

Although the show is still performing strongly, Aniston said "Friends" definitely will end after this season. She called it "the longest commitment I've ever had in my life."

Aniston, who's married to Brad Pitt, said she looks forward to time off after "Friends" ends and has no immediate plans to start a family or return to television.

"It's hard to get burned out on (the show) because it's just so much fun. But it's enough. We've exhausted it, I think," she said. "I'll miss it. I'll miss the gang . . . But hopefully I'll have more experiences ahead of me that will be as cherished." *AP*

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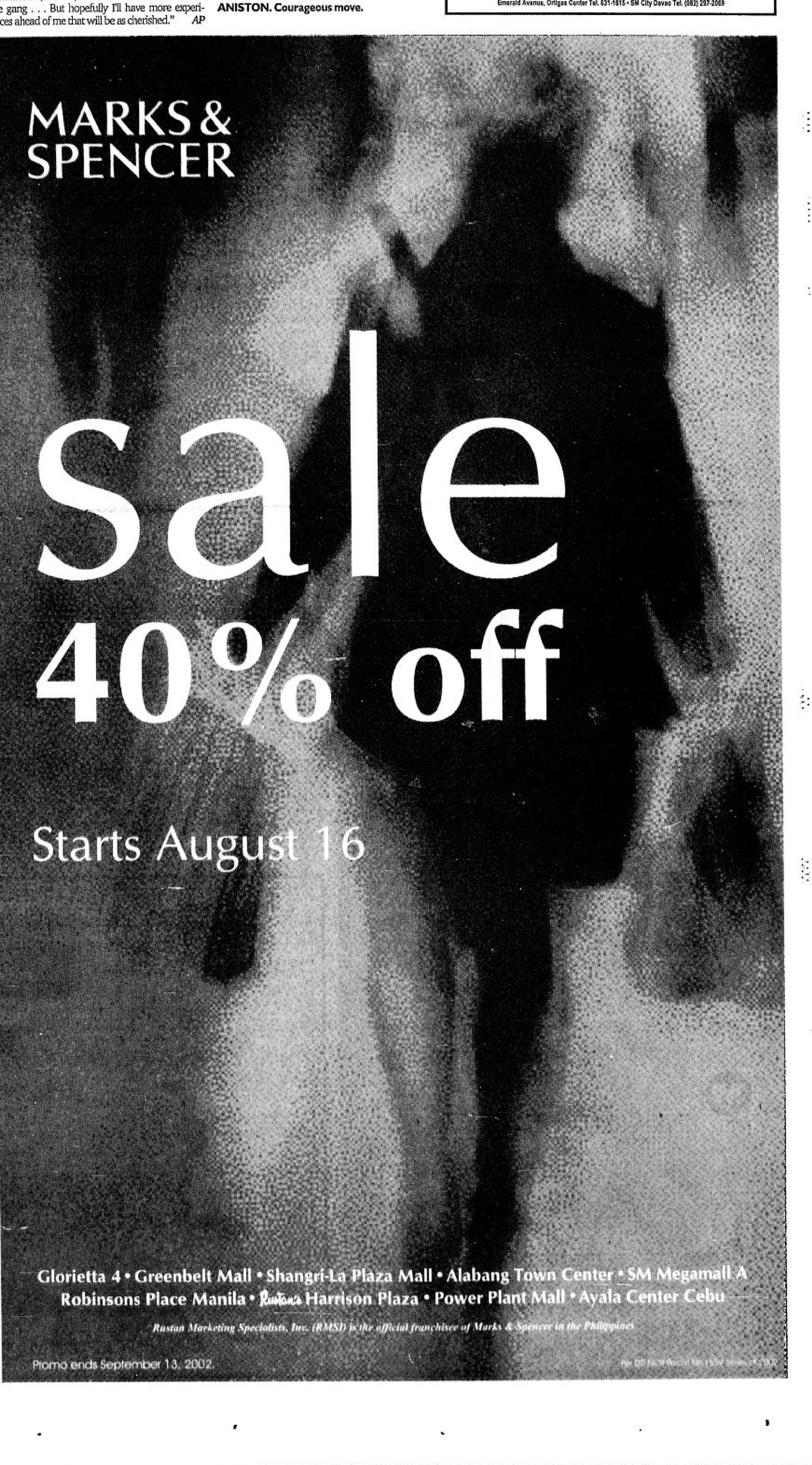

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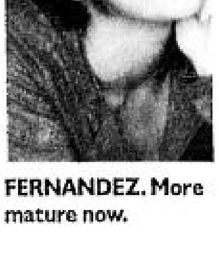
Per DTI NCR Permit No. [illegible] Series of 2002

Pops goes back to TV hosting

By Jocelyn Valle

POPS Fernandez showed great promise when she released her first single, "Dito," in 1982, but the public's reaction to her movies, "Pag-ibig Pa" and "Just Say You Love Me," was lukewarm, maybe because at that time, the Regal Babies, led by Maricel Soriano, Snooky

POPS/ p. E2



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Keyword:mydecember

All Rise: Special Asian Edition / Blue
Best In Me
Keyword:bestnme

Be Not Nobody / Vanessa Carlton
Ordinary Day
Keyword:ordinaryday

We Invented The Remix / P. Diddy & Bad Boy
Unfoolish feat. Ashanti and Notorious BIG
Keyword:unfoolish

A Walk To Remember / Various Artists
It's Gonna Be Love by Mandy Moore
Keyword:gonnabluv

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5 **All Rise: Special Asian Edition**
Blue
keyword:*bestnme*
allrise
6 **Chillout Project**
Various Artists
7 **Live Series**
Various Artists
8 **Nellyville**
Nelly
9 **Broadway Concert**
Lea Salonga
10 **By The Way**
Red Hot Chili Peppers
11 **Very Best Of MTV Unplugged**
Various Artists
12 **Come Away With Me**
Norah Jones
13 **Ono Lisa Best 1997-2001**
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14 **Joey's Moods**
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15 **I'd Spend My Day With You**
Various Artists
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keyword: *ordinaryday*
17 **Best Of Me**
David Foster
18 **The Look Of Love: Limited Edition**
Diana Krall
19 **Simply The Best 60's**
Various Artists
20 **World Of Our Own: Deluxe Edition**
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keyword: *bop2baby*
21 **Eminem Show: Special Limited Edition**
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Malu de Guzman does 'edge work' in 'Insiang'

DE GUZMAN (left) and Sheenly Vee Gener, who plays her daughter in Mario O'Hara's play.

TAKING on the role of Pacing in the stage play "Insiang" could not have come at a better time for Malu de Guzman. When cost-cutting in television left many talents with a lean number of regular shows to appear in, Malu says she was ready for depression.

Economic crunch

The economic crunch in the broadcasting field left even major talents like her scouting for better opportunities.

Before going to the evening rehearsals of "Insiang" at the CCP, this single parent of two kids had to shuttle between taping for a role in "Maalaala mo Kaya" the night before and classes in UP, where she handles a course in TV Speech and Performance, a three-hour production class.

Being a teacher has not been a chore for Malu because the chance to exchange knowhow with the younger generation stimulates her and provides a positive spin to everything she's doing.

She looks at the chance to play Pacing as a breather from all her activities that include looking after her eldest daughter, who is taking up Family Life and Child Development at UP, and her one year and seven-month-old child.

Earthiness

Several months back, Malu says, director Chris Millado told her she should consider doing Pacing because he needed an actress who could bring out the "earthiness and sensuality" the role demands. She was initially perplexed as to how to flesh out the character

She has vague recollections of Lino Brockas '70s film, and how Mona Lisa portrayed the role of Pacing, a widowed market vendor from the slums whose live-in partner rapes her teenage daughter.

Malu is digging deep into her arsenal of experiences so she can faithfully portray the complicated role. Mario O'Hara's melodramatic tale depicts Pacing as a slum dweller who commits a "crime of passion" after being trapped in a web of deceit and opportunism.

Luxury of time

This 1996 Star Awards winner for Best Comedy Actress (as the wacky Lucring in the TV series "Ober the Bakod") says she finds theater work challenging because the medium offers her the luxury of time to process the character she is involved with.

"Theater gives me the chance to do edge work," she says. To a layman not well-versed in the theater jargon, that may be synonymous to flexibility or versatility. Malu also does musical theater and caricatures of political heavyweights in the parliament of the street.

Performances: at 8 p.m. on Aug. 22 and 23; and at 3 p.m. on Aug. 17,18, 24 and 25. Call Tanghalang Pilipino at 832-1125 local 1620/1621 or telefax 832-3661.

Jessa Zaragoza performs at Hard Rock on Aug. 24

MONTAGE

HARD Rock Cafe presents Jessa Zaragoza in a special solo concert, "Fabulous" on Aug. 24 at 9 p.m. This marks Jessa's very first club appearance.

Call 893-4661.

Anna Fegi in free concert

Anna Fegi will be the featured at the multi-media launch of Palmolive Naturals Shampoo on Aug. 17 at 8 p.m. at the Maria Orosa atrium of Robinsons Place in Ermita, Manila.

Preceding the concert, TV host Pia Guanio will facilitate a special feature with Rissa Mananquil as guest speaker. The talk will be folllowed by a fashion show directed by Robby Carmona.

'Power and Beauty' on the Hallmark Channel

Natasha Henstridge appears in the new Hallmark Channel movie, "Power and Beauty" which will air on Aug. 17 and 18. In the truel-to-life story, she plays Judith Exner, a woman who was linked romantically to the late president John F. Kennedy and singer Frank Sinatra.

Vina Morales bar tour

Vina Morales resumes her bar tour, "Viva Live!" with a performance at Dish on Aug. 19 and a final show at Conway's Makati Shangri-La on Aug. 24. The series is a production of Butterfly, Inc.

Illusione at Greenbelt's Onstage

Bahaghari Productions presents "Illusione...Encore" at the newly opened Star Theater at the CCP Complex on Aug. 17. Other show dates are Aug. 18, 23, 24, 25, 30, 31 and Sept. 1. The show will also have performances in Pampanga on Sept. 6 and 7.

Some of the most-applauded scenes in the repeat are the Black Divas medley featuring James Cooper as Diana Ross, the Broadway suite, and the Swan Lake Suite featuring Douglas Nierras, who is directing the second run of "Illusione."

Call 687-0990. *(Compiled by Edmund L. Sicam)*

Pops goes . . .

From p. E1

Serna and Dina Bonnevie, had already cornered the teenybopper market. And, of course, there was Sharon Cuneta.

Niche

It was only later, when Pops was tapped to host, with *balikbayan* singer Martin Nievera, the musical program, "Penthouse Live," that the daughter of actors Eddie Fernandez and Dulce Lukban found her niche.

Twenty years, two kids and an annulment later, Pops goes back to hosting on Channel 2's daily talk show, "Morning Girls," with her real-life pals Kris Aquino and Zsa Zsa Padilla. "Hosting is something that I've always wanted to do," she smiles. "In acting *kasi* you're portraying a role. In singing, you're hiding yourself in a song. In hosting, you have to be yourself."

Worth the wait

It may have taken her a long time to get back to it, but Pops avers that it's worth the wait. She adds that she's grown so much since her "Penthouse Live" days. "And maturity is a big factor in hosting a talk show," she points out. "There's so much to talk about now. *Mas malawak na ang pananaw ko sa buhay.*"

She points out, though, that she's still in the process of finding herself. "Before, I used to please the person I was with," she explains. "You really have know who you are, so you don't lose yourself."

Pops feels a lot more responsible now. She doesn't just report to the studio and wait for the cameras to roll. Though "Morning Girls" has a competent staff, Pops feels the need to do her own research on the topics they'll be discussing.

"It's very important for me to be familiar with the guests," she adds. "I have to make them comfortable. It's very important to listen very well and be as natural as possible. Well, I'm curious about a lot of things. But the most important thing is to find and show what their hearts are."

Pops has a high regard for Oprah Winfrey. "I love watching her show!" she exclaims. "She listens to her guests and she inspires women to become better persons."

Last segment

She hopes that she can do the same with "Morning Girls." Pops is thankful that, in the show's last segment, the hosts are able to voice out their thoughts on the day's topic. She also looks forward to more discussions on women and relationships.

Since all three hosts are known for their stylish looks, Pops reports that they've been getting a lot of requests to do features on clothes, shoes and makeup. It's not really a problem, she points out, since they also want "Morning Girls" to be a lifestyle program.

As for having two co-hosts, Pops shares that it's nicer to have company on the program. "*Mas madali nga kung mag-isa ka lang sa* show," she says. "*Kapag may kasama ka,* you're conscious *na baka nakaka*-offend *ka.* You just have to complement each other. *Mas* challenging kung *tatlo* kayo."

Her only problem now is her schedule, which has become tighter. "I have less time for my kids (Robin, 15, and Ram, 12)," she sighs, and laughs. "And less time for girlie things."

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Focus on 'E.T.' writer Melissa Mathison

By Nestor U. Torre

MELISSA Mathison may not be a star, but she's a movie luminary in her own right. To film buffs, she's famous for having written the script for "E.T., The Extra-terrestrial."

Touching story

Mathison got back into the limelight again when Steven Spielberg brought "E.T." back to the big screen, 20 years after it smashed box-office records with its touching story about the unlikely friendship between a young boy and an alien from outer space.

In response to the flurry of questions about the sci-fi classic and how she thought up its story, Mathison shares her creative process:

She recalls that she was just a new kid on the screenwriters' block when she received her first solo screenplay credit for "E.T." Before that, she had studied political science at UC Berkeley.

She got into the movie business courtesy of Francis Ford Coppola, a family friend. He put her to work as an assistant on "The Godfather Part II" and "Apocalypse Now."

Next, at Coppola's urging, she co-wrote "The Black Stallion" in 1979, based on the children's novel. Early on, she made her mark as a writer "with a keen eye and ear for the mannerisms and language of the young." That gift would serve her in good stead when it was time for her to write her masterwork, "E.T."

Long hiatus

You would think that, after scoring a hit with her script for Spielberg's blockbuster film, Mathison would have gone on to write even bigger films. Well, you would be dead-wrong. Instead of taking Hollywood by storm after "E.T.," Mathison chose to go on a long hiatus to raise her kids with her husband, Harrison Ford.

What a waste? By no means. Mathison says that it was the best decision she's ever made. After the kids were all grown up, however, she did go back to writing screenplays—"The Indian in the Cupboard" in 1995, and Martin Scorsese's "Kundun" in 1997.

But it's still her script for "E.T." that defines her, so Mathison's notes on the movie are particularly instructive. When the film was reissued, she confessed to being "curious as to how the movie is going to play with kids of this generation. What's interesting about 'E.T.' is that it did honor kids' sensibility and intelligence.

"Would I write 'E.T.' the same way today? Yes. It would still be a child's dilemma that he would have to work out with his own wits. But children are much less innocent than they were 20 years ago, so you'd have to catch up with the reality of today's child.

"I don't think the level of imagination is the same. It's probably much more complex now, fed by imagery that was unimaginable two decades ago.

"It's scary how sophisticated some kids are today. But they're also just like us, too. So, the nature of the updated script wouldn't change. The language and the pop culture would have to be adjusted, though."

Caregiver

Mathison is next asked to compare "E.T." to "Harry Potter." Her observations: "'E.T.' had a normal imperative. It was inherent in the story of the caregiver. I thought the 'Harry Potter' movie was really well done, but there wasn't a resonance to it that was heartfelt—nor need there have been. That wasn't what the film seemed to be about.

"As far as the studio was concerned, I wonder if anybody there wanted it to reach a deeper level. Sometimes, it's hard to include that without losing some of the fun."

Why are today's filmmakers reluctant to teach lessons to kids? "I don't think they understand children. There's a lot of effort put into understanding what's going on outside of them, but very little importance given to their own thoughts and feelings."

How did she plug into the young characters in "E.T."? "I wasn't a parent yet, but I had been a babysitter since I was 12, and my husband had two boys by his first wife. So, I had lots of kids in my life, whom I stole from without shame!"

Why did she write "E.T." in the first place? "As I recall, Steven asked me if I wanted to write a children's movie about a man from outer space. He had been working on the invasion of a violent extra-terrestrial, but decided that was not the right way to go. So, the peaceful extra-terrestrial was born, and from then on, there was a lot of give-and-take. I would simply call it a collaboration.

"I wrote 'E.T.' because I felt I had not seen kids accurately portrayed on the screen. Most of the time, they were depicted as being duped, in peril, or as goofballs. They tended to be accessories rather than as protagonists, standing up alone and facing dilemmas. I hope that 'E.T.' helped change that."

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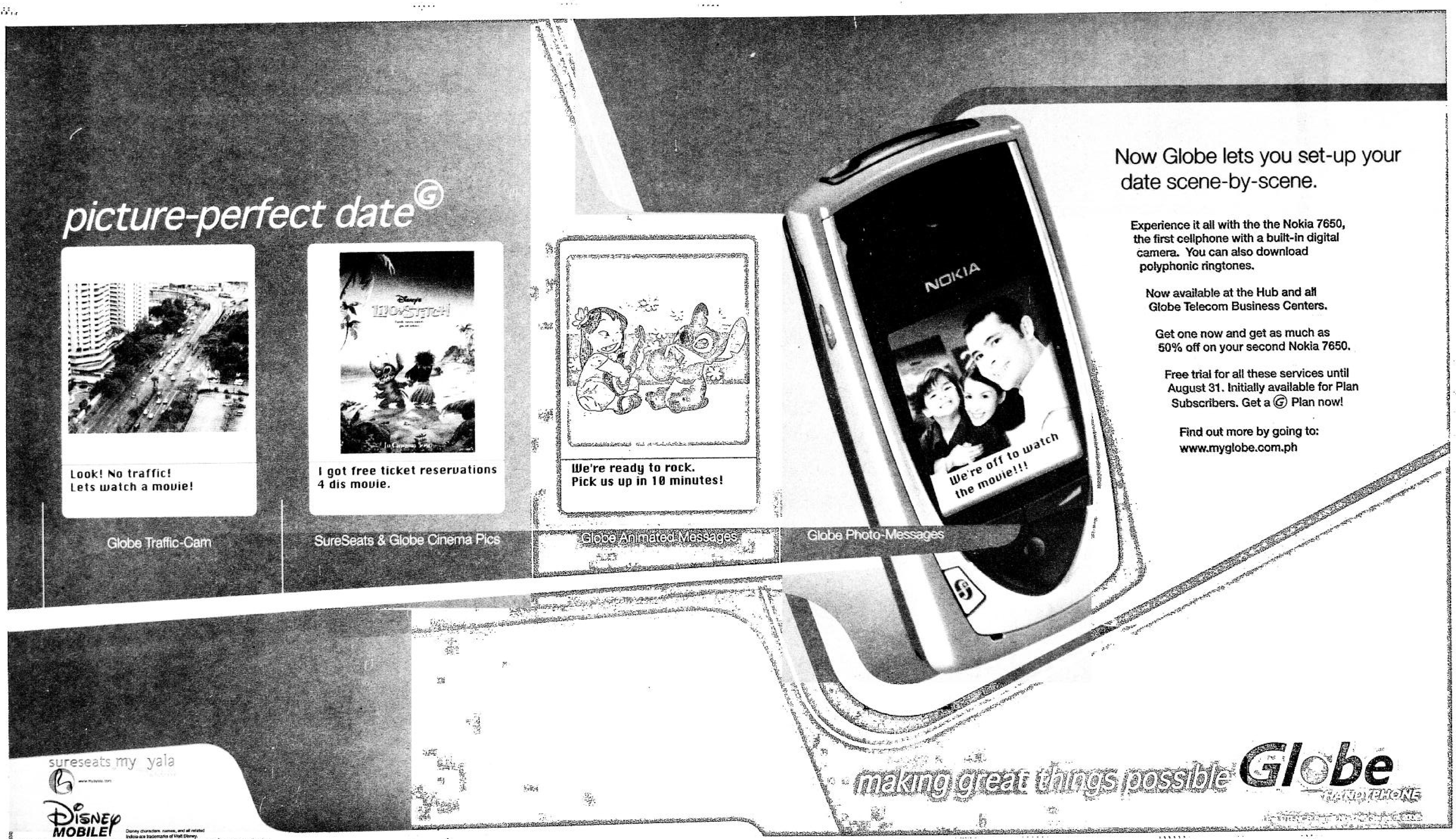
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SATURDAY

Donita Rose stays focused

THE VJ misses acting.

By Mary Ann A. Bautista

THERE is lightness, ease and radiance as Donita Rose waltzes around in her sleeveless, tight red blouse and black skirt. Her long absence from local show business might be the reason why she's glowing these days. Though she admits that she misses acting.

Opportunity

So, during a short visit in Manila, she grabbed the opportunity and guested on "Beh Bote Nga" and "Oki Doki Doc."

Donita smiles, "I enjoyed working with Janno Gibbs and Anjo Yllana again. It was fun. But I miss 'Ober Da Bakod.' Those were the best times I had in show business because we really had a lot of fun.

"Everytime we had tapings on Tuesdays, *pag pasok mo may malaki at mahabang mesa na punong-puno ng pagkain. Lahat kami nagdadala ng pagkain. Parang fiesta siya. Nandoon sa kabisera si direk* Ariel (Ureta). And when we taped with Tita Malu (de Guzman), Tito Leo (Martinez), Gelli, Janno and Anjo, we were all clowning around. *Hindi siya trabaho.*

DONITA/ p. F2

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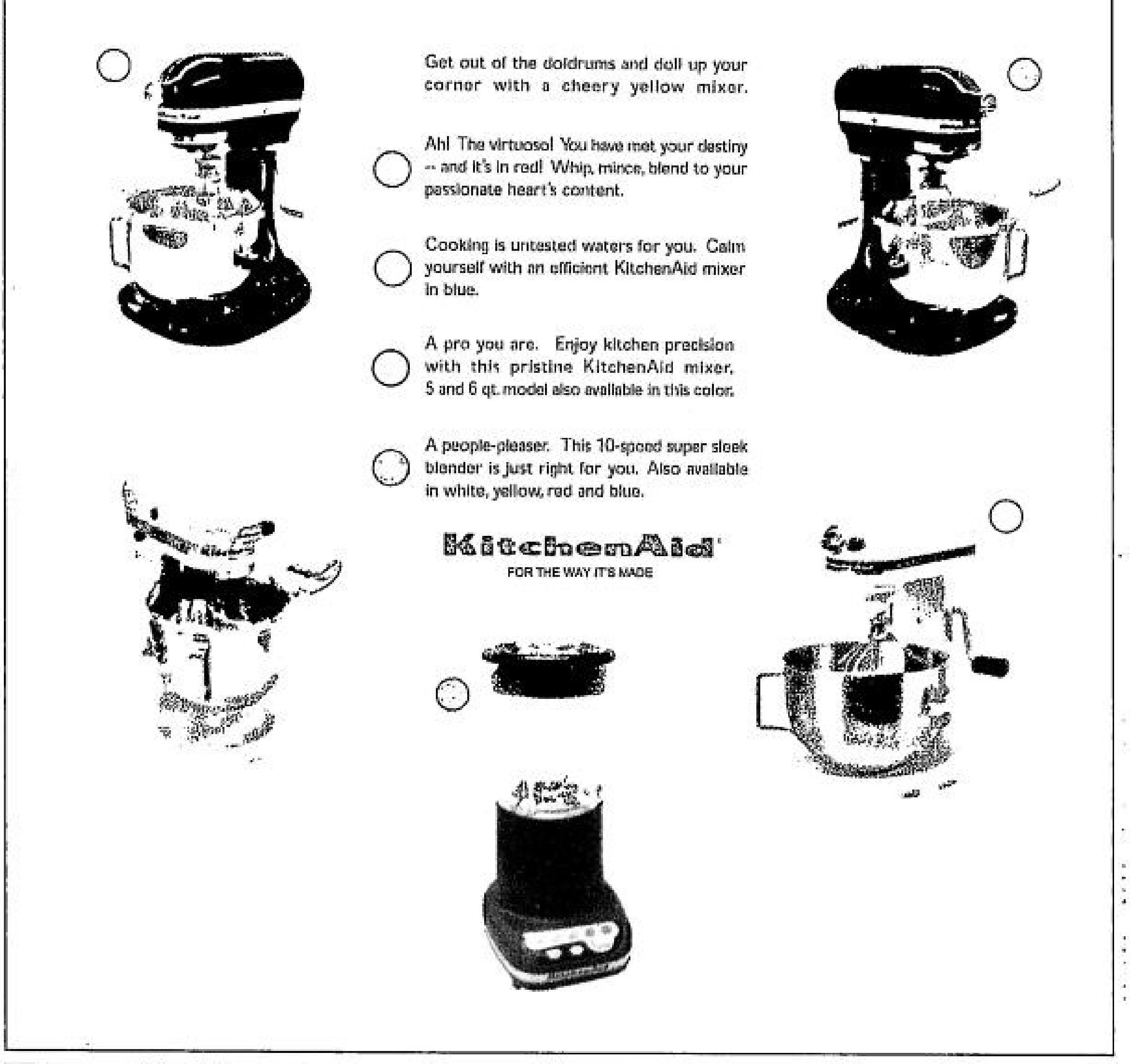

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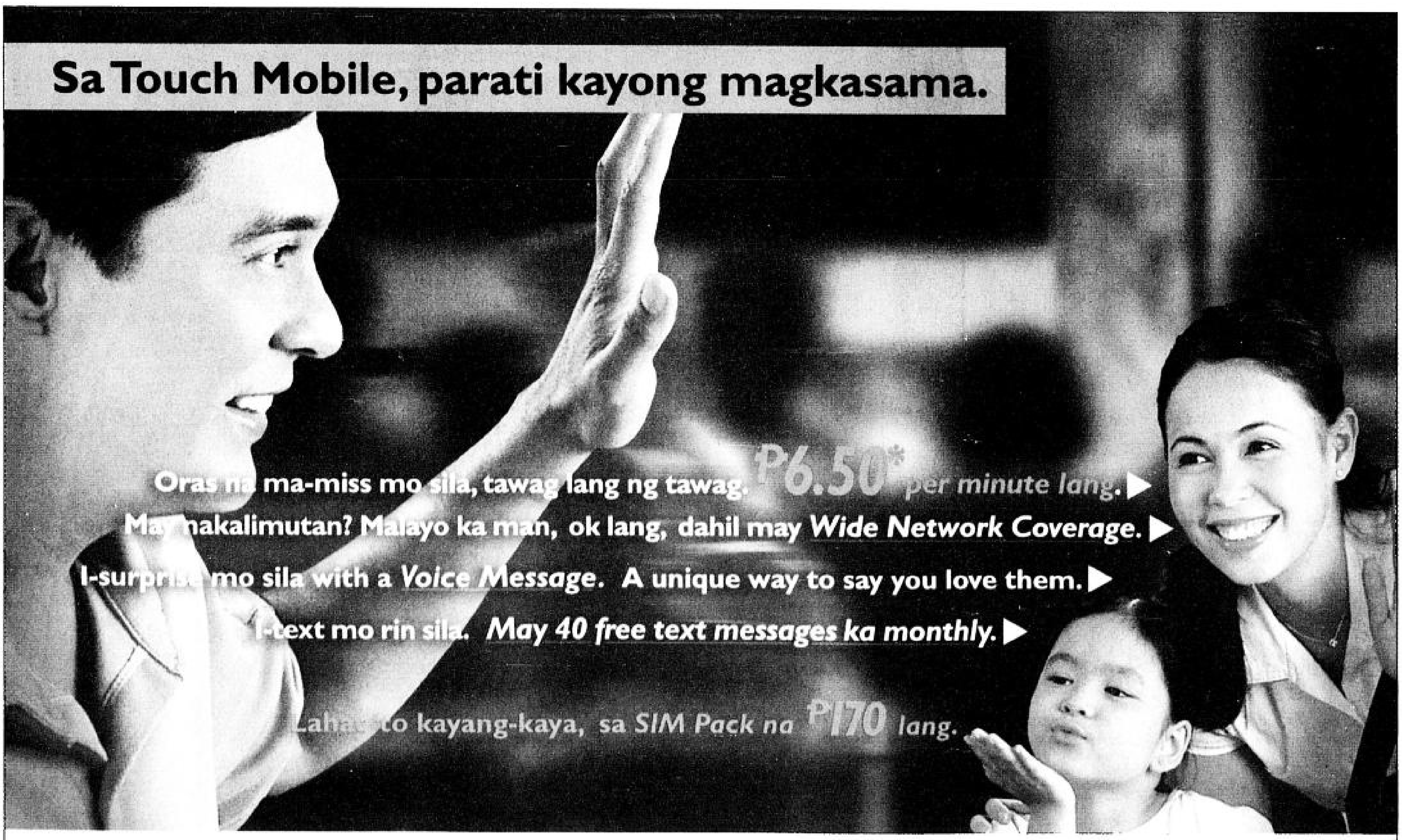

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Tribute to Rudy Francisco

By Nestor U. Torre

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RUDY Francisco is not a big, flashy show biz mogul, but for the past three decades, he's been rendering an important service to the entertainment scene and its huge audience: He's been discovering, training, showcasing and guiding many of the country's top chanteuses at the Hyatt Regency Manila's famous Calesa Bar.

Outstanding singing stars

Dulce, Joey Albert, Verni Varga, Janet Basco, Cynthia Patag, Malu Barry, Isay Alvarez, Chiqui Pineda, Lani Misalucha, Marissa Sanchez and Anna Fegi are only some of the lovely and gifted chanteuses whom Maestro Rudy has carefully and sometimes exactingly molded into the outstanding singing stars they have become.

We've caught their intimate performances at Calesa Bar through the years, with Rudy accompanying them at the piano, and we've seen "Rudy's Angels" bloom from rough diamonds into polished musical gems in front of our very eyes.

What ability and acuity does Rudy Francisco possess that have made him such a keen discoverer and appreciator of female singing talent?

Rigorous musicality

First, there's his own rigorous musicality, which translates into high standards that only the best musical talents can meet.

Since he's so exacting, this swiftly eliminates the mediocre wannabes who may look good but sing less than well—"*puwede na*" talents who may find work in other musical lounges where physical allure is regarded as an excuse for deficient musicality.

Next, Rudy *loves* real talent. You can see him getting all excited when he hears a promising singer belting for the first time. And he'll do anything to help refine that talent, and add more facets and prismatic flashes of light to it, until the once dim, unfocused singer acquires that signature Rudy Francisco stellar shine.

Intimate venue

The fact that Calesa Bar is an intimate venue in a five-star hotel makes the challenge for new singers all the more daunting. The audience is made up of well-heeled, well-traveled locals and tourists who've been exposed to the best in entertainment all over the world, so they don't miss a trick or cheap musical gimmick. The chanteuse just has to be strikingly lovely and authentically talented, period.

Also, she's got to be her own person, both musically and in terms of character and personality. Rudy may expose her to different singing styles and song formats, but after all that "education," she's got to make those songs and styles her own, infusing them with her own persona, thoughts and emotions.

Individuality

That's why many Calesa Bar alumnae have become stars, stellar talents who stand out because of their vivid, resolute individuality.

Finally, Rudy is a mentor, but he can also be a tough taskmaster, and this is an important attribute especially when a talent has begun to get noticed. The usual tendency is for her to get lazy and acquire bad habits—but Rudy refuses to put up with such amateurish behavior, and swiftly gets the erring talent back in shape.

The discipline singers learn at Calesa Bar holds them in good stead throughout their careers in entertainment, and keeps them focused and professional.

To thank Rudy Francisco for everything he's done at Calesa Bar, the Hyatt is paying tribute to him by way of a series of monthly shows starting on Aug. 28, until March, 2003.

The August show features Malu Barry, and other monthly specials will showcase Verni Varga, Isay Alvarez, Marissa Sanchez and Anna Fegi. Such an exhilirating stellar lineup of musical talents! Rudy Francisco deserves nothing less.

Food court favorites

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

THE FAST-FOOD craze started in the early '70s. It was the food court beside the Au Bon Vivant building in Makati that displayed the widest array of cuisines. I still remember walking in there and eating at the very first stall I came across. I dreamt about the place for many weeks. I had my meals there for the entire week! My fascination for the fast food malls has not faded. Today, anytime a place opens, you can be sure I will be sampling its selections.

Difficult to please

After my many visits to these food malls, I have come to one conclusion: Diners will always come back to our very own Filipino food. We are a very curious and adventurous bunch, but we're also very difficult to please. So, if the food does not meet our standard, it will only be a matter of time before a food court starts thinking up gimmicks to sustain its existence.

My favorite stalls: I like the *sinigang na ulo-ulo* at Sizzling Seafoods. The beef short ribs of Kimchi is also a winner. Ilonggo Grill has good *batchoy*. Modesty aside, I am addicted to my Thai *sinigang na* salmon belly, stir-fried Thai kangkong, and most recently a hot bowl of *bola bola* with *misua* and plain hot rice. (These are served in my outlets Mai Thai and Sandy's Cuisine.) Big Red Hen has good roast chicken, too.

Creamy 'kare-kare'

Recently, I was told about a new food mall, Food Choices 3. I was there a few days after. The two stalls I sampled were okay, but one really deserves a visit: Mama Nita, with its creamy *kare-kare*. The sauce is oozing with peanut flavor, the meat is sticky and tender, and when blended with the *bagoong* will make you grateful you're alive! It is simple yet delicious. I would love to see chicken, seafood and vegetarian versions. A winner!

Food Choices 3 is found on the third floor of the Greenbelt 3 mall in Makati. Check it out!

Happy eating!

Comments and discoveries, please email me at sandydaza@hotmail.com

Donita Rose stays focused

From p. F1

Minsan nga, pagkatapos ng taping, *lalabas pa kami* as a group. It's rare to see a group of people with that kind of rapport."

Donita auditioned for the sitcom, "Money" at Singapore's TCS 5 TV network, and landed a role. It is not a high-paying job, but it's a grueling one, because they have to rehearse for the sitcom thrice a week for each episode.

Femme fatale

Donita shares that she can never join the bold trend. In the original screenplay of "Legacy," Donita's character, Lara Cameron, was a femme fatale who mouthed cuss words. Her director revised the role to suit her because he found Donita's subtle acting style interesting.

"I can play a mistress in a movie but I don't want to have any bed scenes. Definitely, no showing of body parts," Donita firmly shakes her head.

Her conviction made her push her parents to view "Legacy" on the big screen. She was thrilled when her parents saw her full name: Donita Rose Cavett, in the opening credits.

"My relatives in the States were proud to see my name in 'Legacy.' They saw a different side of me. I was an outgoing Amerasian searching for her lost father."

First shooting day

On her first shooting day in "Legacy," Donita cried because she was intimidated by David Hasselhoff and Corin Nemec. But they soon made her comfortable and her nervousness vanished.

What is her strength as an actress? "I'm a perfectionist. In a way, that's good because it leaves room for improvement. People assume that I'm *suplada* because I'm *tisay*, but I'm not. If I see a fan on the street, I'll allow him to kiss or hug me. I want him to know that I appreciate him."

Nope, she's no prima donna. She even admits that she does her own laundry and cooking in Singapore!

"I spend more time by myself in Singapore. When I do go out, I don't have to worry about how I look because Singaporeans are more laidback. Even when they do recognize me, they just smile. I don't get mobbed. It's so peaceful.

"I get to read more books now. I'm taking painting lessons. I collect candles. Sometimes, when I'm alone in my pad, I just light them all up and relax. I've also became an expert in Singaporean cuisine," Donita beams.

Magic ingredients

"Unlike Filipino food *na prito lang*, Singaporean cooking is sort of an art. *Ang dami nilang* magic ingredients. If I eat something that's "heating" like durian, I should eat something "cooling" afterward, like mangosteen, to neutralize it. I can't stop eating there. I love their chicken rice, bakutai (like our *bulalo*), and durian. After each meal, I must have their version of *halu-halo*. They have about 100 concoctions of *halo-halo*," Donita smiles.

Her fascination with food stems from her happy memories of having dinner with her family in Pampanga. "Every night at the dinner table, it was like a fiesta. Our cousins lived nearby, so they had dinner with us everyday. We had 40 people eating all at the same time! *'Yung mga katulong, kasama naming kumain sa* table. Simple, but we were very happy," Donita shares.

With Donita's simplicity and goodness, it's easy to see why Singaporeans love her, too.

Alma, Kris and I

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

DEAR Clara,

This time, I'd like to talk to you about love. And I'd like to talk to you about Alma and Kris. They've been hogging the limelight these past weeks, filling the gossip columns with the latest twists and turns in the soap opera of their very real lives, and unwittingly pandering to the public's insatiable appetite for scándal.

Show biz dreams

Did you know that Alma and Kris sort of started their careers with me? Her mother brought Alma to me direct from Cebu, seeking whatever help I could give for her daughter's show biz dreams. The first time I set eyes on her, I immediately saw that her dusky, innocent sensuality would be the undoing of a lot of men. She was barely 15 then, but her physical assets had developed much earlier than the rest of her—which should explain the intriguing but stunning combination of childlike vulnerability and raw sexiness she evoked.

I remember I brought her to Tony Galvez to trim and tame her wild, bushy eyebrows. And I badgered your Tita Letty, then the editor of Panorama, to feature her on the cover of the then No. 1 Sunday magazine. She initially refused because Alma was a total unknown. She asked me to show her pictures so she could make an objective judgment.

Pictorial

I immediately scheduled a pictorial with Tropicana, then the hottest photo studio. I personally paid for the pictorial, excited as I was to show your Tita Letty photos of this new star just waiting to be born. Alas, when I presented the pictures to her, she wasn't impressed. She looked at them and sniffed, "I thought she was extraordinarily beautiful."

To humor me, your Tita Letty did put Alma on the cover of Panorama—but with Jun Polistico, then the hottest and sexiest crooner in town. That cover made important people take a serious look at this nymph—and the rest, as they say, is history.

As for Kris, her first show biz exposure was on "See-True." On that premiere guesting, the show got 60 percent viewership share—the highest rating ever in the history of show biz talk shows in this country. Thereafter, I dare claim that Kris gained the necessary experience and honed her natural talent for talk by pinchhitting for me on "Eye to Eye" whenever I was indisposed or out of the country.

For a while, I was her confidante, adviser and friend. She'd unload the contents of her heart to me and, to this day, I am the keeper of some of her juiciest if juvenile secrets. Kris is so transparent. She only knows black and white and does not have the aptitude to recognize the different shades of gray that can come in between.

Bad choices

You know, Clara, I have some things in common with both Alma and Kris—especially in matters of the heart. Like them, I've had my own share of loving and losing and learning in this arguably most complex of human emotions. Like them, too, I've made some pretty bad choices, cried a river of tears, and lived to regret decisions I thought were the best for me at the time I made them.

My wish for you is that you do not have to take the path that I, Alma and Kris have taken. I want to spare you the agonies of committing the very painful mistakes that will eat up a part of you at a time, until the whole of you is no longer what you have been created by God to be.

My dearest Clara, here are the things I've discovered about love—the things that, perhaps, Alma and Kris are right now just in the process of discovering for themselves. May they be your guideposts when the time for you to face and slay your own demons comes:

First, love is not about winning or losing—for true love is never a game. When you play with love, you'll forever be tormented because here, nobody really wins, everybody loses. For love is about very real pains that throb in the dark, very real tears shed in the coldest night, very real lives that could be destroyed and made meaningless by irreversible blunders.

Failures

One failure in love cannot guarantee empowerment for the succeeding times you fall in love again. Take it from me, it can only brazen you up for the next failure. If at all, the first failure in love only increases your chances of failing the next time.

For sure, it can deaden the pain. But as you fail again and again, time will come that you'll get numb—but the tears will no longer be able to wash away the emptiness inside. Because, as you pick up the broken pieces of yourself, you'll find that you can never really be complete anymore, even after you've put the whole of you back together again.

The real key to success in love is not to fail the first time. Of course, I don't mean the petty crushes or the I'll-die-if-he-looks-my-way kind of love. I'm referring here to the kind of love especially designed for you by the hand of God.

Yes, Clara, it's true. There is such a thing. When you find it, don't ever lose it. Realize that gifts from God aren't perfect, for their imperfections are precisely meant to perfect you. So don't be disheartened by them. Don't cry when the violins stop playing or the twinkling stars disappear. They only signal the time for you to make your own music with the man God has created just for you, and for the two of you to find your stars in each other's hearts.

Capacity for sacrifice

My dear, precious child, inscribe these words in your brain: True love is measured not by its potential for joy, but by its capacity for sacrifice. Joy should be a by-product of sacrifice. That kind of joy is born out of mutual and never-ending self-giving. That kind of joy is inexhaustible.

So don't mistake cheap thrills, simple joys and momentary happiness for true love. For they shall all pass. For instance, when your husband comes home late reeking of cheap liquor and the even cheaper scent of another woman, you do not close the door and say goodbye to him forever. Because when you are old and gray, you will look for the press of his hand, as veiny as yours, but you will find that it isn't there—and you will feel a twinge, no matter how brave the years shall have made you.

On the other hand, if you learn as you must the values of patience, forbearance, fortitude and commitment, you shall hold on no matter what, and fight for your love—your first magnificent love—and you shall live to reap the bountiful harvest of a life blessed and prospered by God with years of blissful and loving togetherness with your spouse and family.

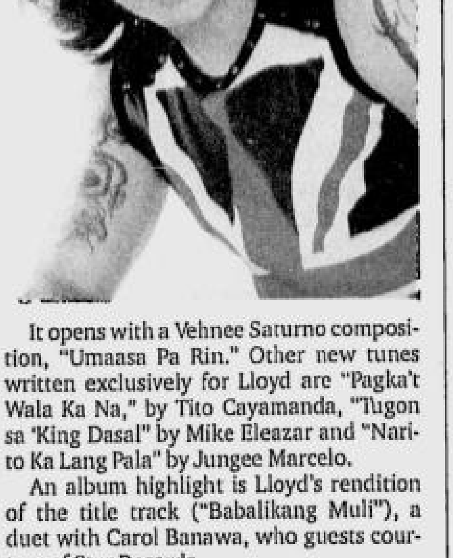
When that time comes, you shall look back at the tumultuous past and thank God for giving you the strength to hold on to Him, and to your spouse.

Clara, my prayer is to see you graduate from college. But if God grants me one more wish, it is to see you march down the aisle with the man who shall not only protect and provide for you, but also pledge to make every waking moment an opportunity to love you, every breath an occasion to make you happy, and every smile an event to celebrate God's presence in your life.

Alma and Kris haven't found such a man. Neither have I.

Lloyd Umali has a passion for singing

By Remy M. Umerez



UMALI. Whirlwind romance.

LLOYD Umali was a second-year Nursing student before he followed the musical footsteps of his *lolo*, composer Restie Umali. He was also a salesman, and worked in a Japanese restaurant.

Soul singer

In 1994, Lloyd joined "Bagong Kampeon," which jumpstarted his musical career and heralded the birth of a soul singer because of his preference for songs performed by blacks.

For quite a while, nothing was heard from Lloyd, who popularized "Bakit Kung Sino Pa." No follow-up album nor concert appearances, except for guesting on the albums of Jamie Rivera and Janet Basco. What happened to him?

"I went to Japan to perform. Last May, I got married to a model after a whirlwind romance. In between, I produced shows," he volunteers.

New album

Lloyd's new album from Viva is aptly titled "Babalikang Muli." It is produced by Bob Aves with a cut each composed by Vehnee Saturno and Ricky del Rosario. The collection is a blend of old songs (mostly revivals) and new tunes, both foreign and Filipino, carefully picked to showcase Lloyd's soulful sound.

It opens with a Vehnee Saturno composition, "Umaasa Pa Rin." Other new tunes written exclusively for Lloyd are "Pagka't Wala Ka Na," by Tito Cayamanda, "Tugon sa 'King Dasal" by Mike Eleazar and "Narito Ka Lang Pala" by Jungee Marcelo.

An album highlight is Lloyd's rendition of the title track ("Babalikang Muli"), a duet with Carol Banawa, who guests courtesy of Star Records.

Ten Inspirational Entrepreneurial Students (TIES) Awardees to be chosen next week

Awarding Ceremony will be at the First Student Entrepreneurs Fair entitled "Ano Ba ang Raket mo?" organized by Thames Business School and Global Filipino Foundation.

In January 2002, 8 million Filipinos were either without jobs or underemployed, according to statistics from the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE). At the end of April 2002, about 382,000 students graduated from the country's colleges and universities. What then are the prospects of their landing jobs and becoming productive members of society?

One solution adapted by other countries is to encourage their next generation of business professionals to become job-makers, instead of becoming job-seekers.

It was in this light that **Thames International Business School** in cooperation with the **Global Filipino Foundation** initiated the **Ten Inspirational Entrepreneurial Students (TIES) Awards.** The TIES Awards will be the first recognition of its kind to students who embody the entrepreneurial spirit.

40 student entrepreneurs will be chosen from 25 participating colleges and universities in Metro Manila. The pre-screening judges for the 40 initial candidates are members of the prestigious **Young Entrepreneurs Organization (YEO).** This initial group shortlisted for the awards will be given the opportunity to showcase their products and services in the **1st Students Entrepreneurship Fair**, entitled **"Ano ba ang Raket mo?"** to be held at **Megatrade Hall 3, SM Megamall**, this coming **August 23-24.**

The ten most outstanding student entrepreneurs will then be chosen from the 40 exhibitors. They will be the first batch of TIES Awardees. The Awarding Ceremony will be the culminating event of the two-day fair. Cash prizes will be given to each awardee.

The TIES awardees will hopefully serve as an example and inspiration to their fellow students to take on the path of being a job-maker and not another job-seeker. The organizers and sponsors believe that this would have a direct impact in alleviating the nation's unemployment situation.

MTV MUSIC TELEVISION

MAGIC 89.9

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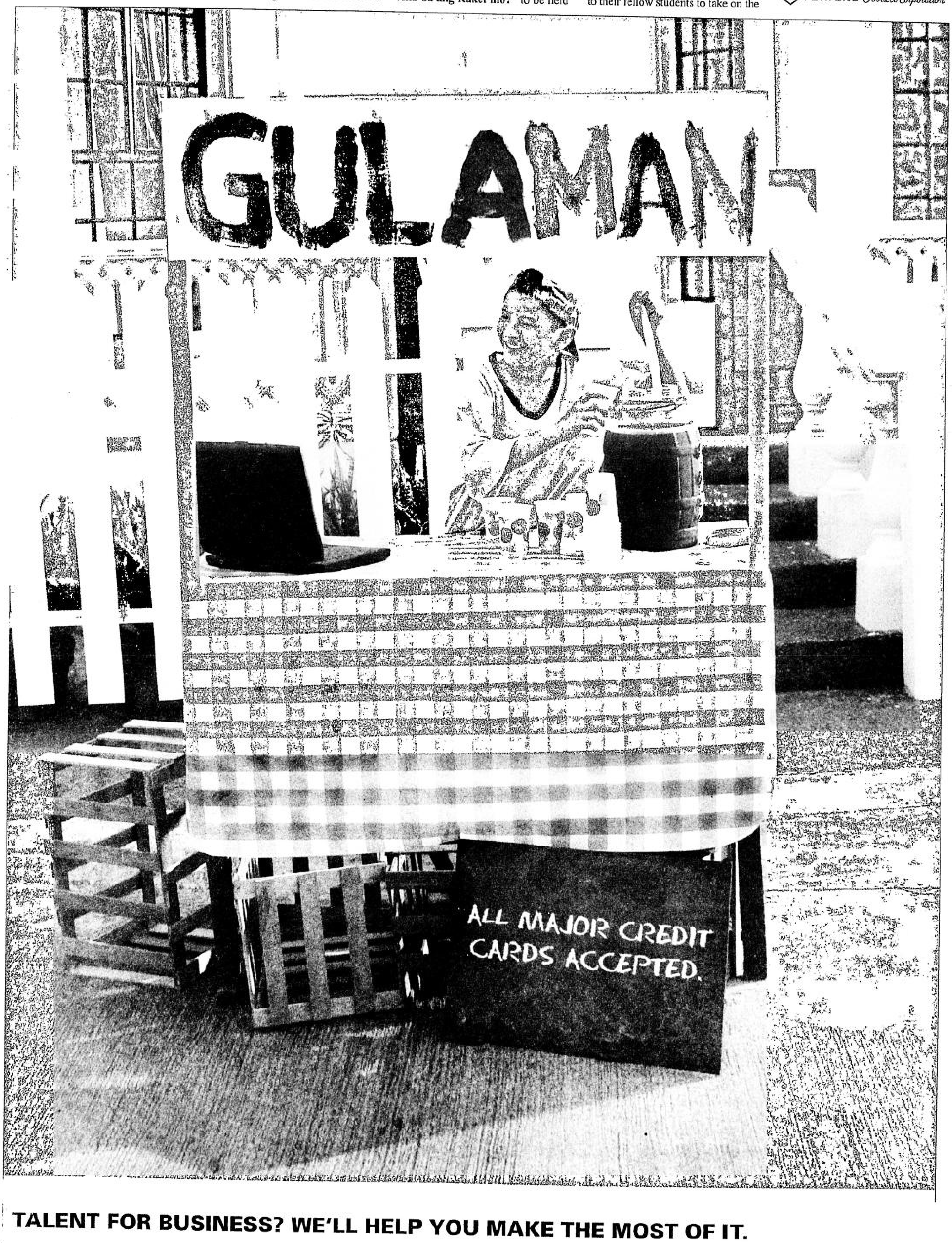
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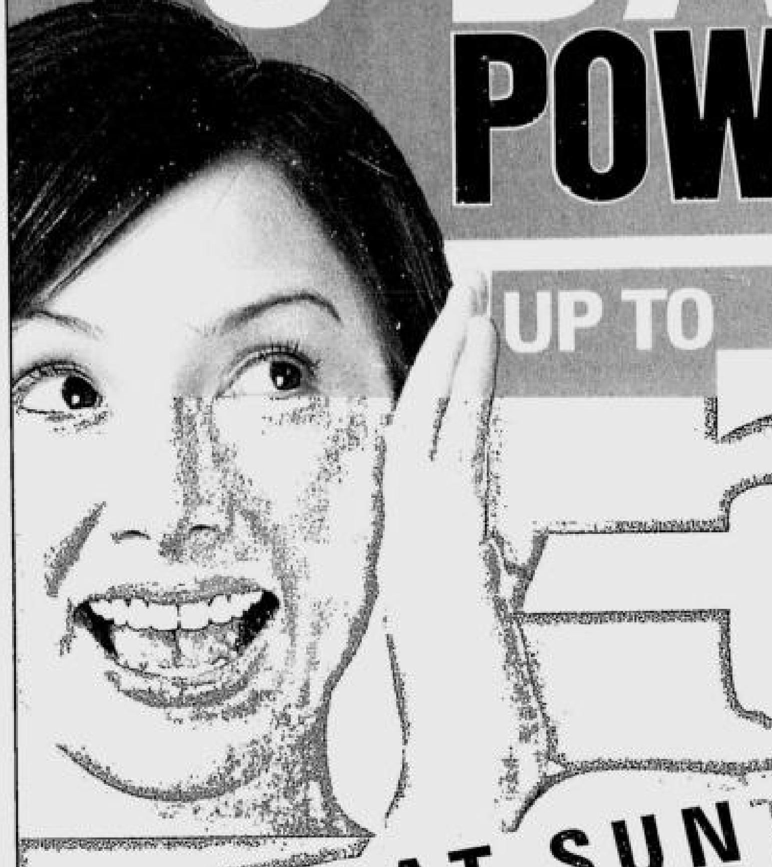

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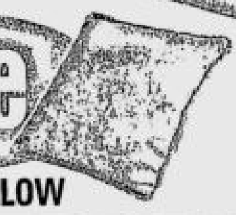

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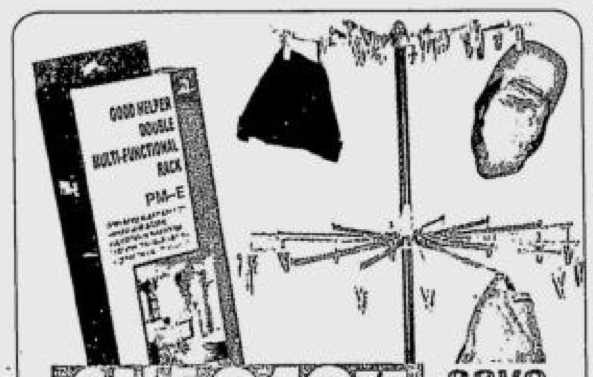

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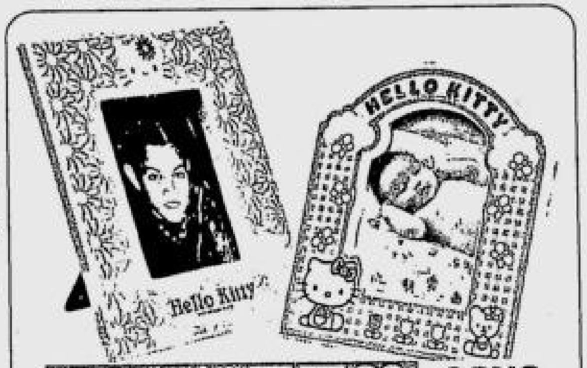

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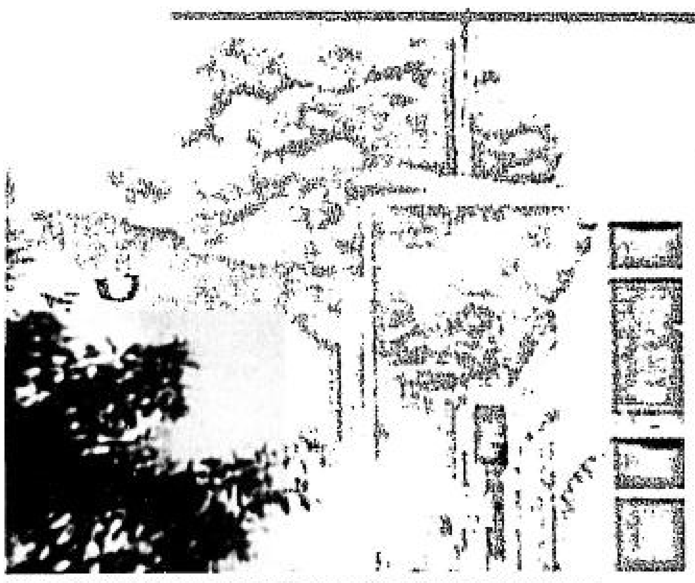
"AMERICA REMEMBERS." A compelling viewing experience.

CNN remembers Sept. 11

By Nestor U. Torre

AS THE first anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on New York, Washington and Pennsylvania approaches, many organizations have been thinking up ways to mark that most important and world-transforming series of events in a significant manner.

Unique contribution

CNN's unique contribution is "America Remembers," a two-part account of that tragic day and its aftermath. Part 1 premieres at 7 p.m. today, Aug. 17, and Part 2 will be telecast at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 24.

The special documentary looks back on the attacks using the personal recollections of many CNN staffers who covered the fast-breaking story, including news anchors, correspondents, producers and cameramen.

Part 1 shows the hectic CNN newsroom as the planes crashed into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. It provides an intimate look at President Bush at the exact moment when he was informed that the second plane had crashed, confirming his suspicion that the first plane crash was not an accident.

Aftermath

Part 2 focuses on the aftermath of the terror attacks—the war against terrorism, Afghanistan, the anthrax attacks, and the healing process in the months that followed.

We were privileged to watch "America Remembers" in preview, so we can be more detailed in our

CNN/ p. G2

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Seiko's Rodel Velayo wants to become a respected actor

By Andy P. Bais

IF one were to examine the film output of Seiko Films for the past three years, it would surely look like a Rodel Velayo retrospective. He's always been the leading man of the likes of Nini Jacinto, Barbara Milano and Brigette de Joya, among other Seiko Films nymphets.

This time around, he is lending his support to Diana Zubiri in "Bakat," a film written by Lualhati Bautista.

Being in most, if not all of the recent movies under Seiko is not at all unexpected. Rodel Velayo, after all, is the film outfit's lone male contract star.

Title role

To date, he has appeared in 11 films under Seiko, most of them requiring him to do the regulation love and sexy scenes. He was introduced in "Pisil" and was given the title role in Mel Chionglo's "Burlesk King."

In "Bakat," his latest film outing, he plays the son of veteran film, movie and stage actor Tommy Abuel. Rodel falls in love with his father's wife, played by Diana.

How is his character in "Bakat" different from his roles in his previous films? "Story-wise, it deals more with family problems and *magulong pag-ibig. Sa* acting *naman, kakaiba ito kasi hindi lang basta* dramatic acting *ang kailangan*. In my previous films, *kung galit, yun lang. Dito galit ako na kailangan di ko ipakita; nahihiya ako na nai-irita*," Rodel explains.

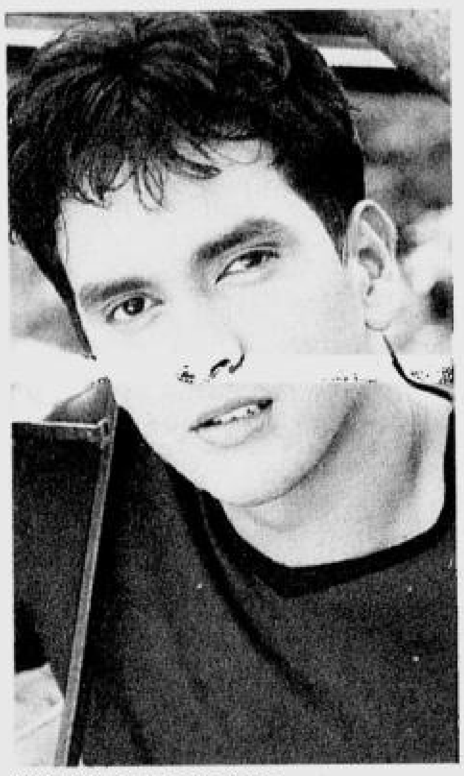
Most challenging

Rodel says his role in "Bakat" is his most challenging to date. It was only while doing this film that he discovered the importance of completely "internalizing" his character.

"*Dati kasi, akala ko madali lang umarte.* Now, it's different, *mas maganda pala yung* acting from within, *kasi kapag nararamdaman at naiintindihan mo ng mabuti ang gagawin mo sa bawat eksena, lalabas na natural ang pag-arte mo.*

"I think, acting is easier now, *kasi medyo malawak na ang kaalaman ko sa pag-arte, dahil* I"m now 've been handled by different directors," he elaborates.

"Bakat" is directed by veteran megman Francis "Jun" Posadas. He has also directed Rodel in "Itlog," Diana Zubiri's launching movie. How is it working with *Direk* Posadas?



VELAYO. Clear conscience.

"He's the 'cowboy' type of director, *parang barkada*. So everytime *na gusto kong magtanong sa kanya, walang problema. Kaya*, I didn't have a hard time working with him *kasi madali kong nai-intindihan ang gusto niyang ipagawa sa akin*," Rodel grins.

Rodel has only good words for his sexy co-star, Diana Zubiri: "*Masarap siyang kasama, kuwela* and most importantly, willing *siyang matuto. Wala din siyang kaartehan. Nagulat nga ako* during one of our scenes that required us to be both naked. *Mas nauna pa siyang naghubad kaysa sa akin*!

Depth

"*Sa tingin ko*, she has improved a lot in her acting in this film. May depth *na ang* attack *niya sa kanyang* role. Compared with her first film, *mas malawak at mas mahirap ang* role *niya dito sa* "Bakat."

Working with more experienced actors is nothing new to Rodel. In his past films, he has worked with Elizabeth Oropesa, Celso Ad Castillo and Raymond Bagatsing, to name only a few. He feels lucky to have learned so much from them in terms of acting.

In "Bakat," he was once again "gifted" with the enviable company of Daria Ramirez and Rita Avila, aside from Tommy Abuel, as co-actors. "Acting with them, *talagang natakot akong magkakamali*, especially with Tommy, with whom I shared most of my *mabibigat na eksena. Once, nilasing ko pa nga siya para lamang ako makakuha ng* acting tips.

"For me *kasi, kung gusto mong tumagal bilang artista, dapat maging* serious *ka. Hindi porke't artista at may nakakakilala sa 'yo, kakawayan mo lang sila. Mas importante, may ibubuga ka rin sa pag-arte. Sa pag a-artista, para din itong pumapasok ka sa* school, *kailangan mataas ang* grades *mo*, " he reasons out.

Workshops

Rodel maintains that his being a bold actor does not prevent him from aspiring to become a respected actor in the near future. "*Sino ba namang artista ang hindi nangangarap na magka-ganun? Kaya nga maski papaano, pinagbubutihan ko talaga ang pag-arte ko. Lahat ng mga* workshops *na binibigay ng* Seiko *sa kanilang mga* talents which I think will help me become a better actor *ay sinasalihan ko*," he relates.

Rodel admits that his present stature as an actor is enough achievement for him: "*Sino ba naman kasi ako nung araw?* Before, *humihingi lang ako ng pera sa aking mga* relatives in order for me to watch a movie. *E, ngayon, napapanood ko na ang sarili ko. Ang laking bagay na sa akin yun.*"

The 23-year-old native of Tuguegarao, Cagayan is also not bothered by people who look down on bold actors like him. "*Hindi ko na sila inintindi. Malinis naman ang* conscience *ko. Nagpasalamat nga ako dahil nagka-bahay at nagkaroon ako ng sariling sasakyan dahil sa pag-artista ko.* I'm sure most of them, *nanonood din ng* films *ko*," he laughs.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKSHELF

Leading critic focuses on Hollywood

By Noelani Torre

(Conclusion)

THOMSON trains his probing but humane eye on Hollywood in his book, "The Crisis in AMerican Filmmaking," showing us how the industry functions—how and why films are made, how mass media are used to control the audience, and how different major directors and producers have responded to or helped create the crisis in American filmmaking.

"The role of mass media is to keep the mass from panic," he writes in his first essay, "Lost on The Tonight Show," "to provide something that we all can witness. It is a piece of furniture on fire so that everyone may honor the idea of warmth and community. But it burns endlessly without ever wasting away, mocking our energy crisis."

His prose is elegant and stimulating, immensely quotable. In fact, he not only writes knowledgeably about movies, but also incorporates them in his fiction and has, according to "The Observer" 's Philip French, "invented and made plausible a mythical cinematic world of his own."

Ingenious biographies

His fictional work, "Suspects," is made up of 83 brief and ingenious biographies of characters from Hollywood movies, "revealing" such tidbits as the "fact" that "The Shining's" Overlook Hotel is built on the site where Charles Foster Kane's mother ran a lodging house, and that Richard Gere's character in "American Gigolo" was actually the illegitimate son of Nora Desmond and Joe Gillis from "Sunset Boulevard"(!)

This speculative, whimsical strain sometimes emerges in some of the essays in this book, but he usually confines himself to strict albeit no less idiosyncratic analyses.

"I have sought something similar to the rush of film in this book," he wrote. "There is an order, provided by print and binding technology, but the book can be traveled in other ways - as one might read a newspaper, a magazine, or a collection of essays.

"But it is not a thorough portrait of the new Hollywood, because it reaches out to the mentality of anyone who ever strove and succumbed in the business, to anyone who might take it on in the future, and to anyone now waiting in an L.A. room for the phone to ring."

System

Thomson takes us behind the scenes with his examinations of the complex and convoluted ties that bind the individuals who make films, and the system in which they work, of the relationship of filmmakers with advertisers and financiers, and, ultimately, with the audience.

But what is this crisis in American filmmaking that he warns us about in his title?

"Very well," he said in "The Crisis in American Filmmaking," "movies are nearly at an end. The climactic crisis of American film is that the movies were unworthy of a culture dependent on imagination. I suspect that they have never been worthy, but that they have come close enough, often enough, to tempt anyone interested in a communication that might touch everyone."

He goes on to explain how the crisis is created by the clash between two facts: that movies are more than a business, but also have a tendency towards the industrial.

It is not possible to summarize his argument, he himself does not give us a summary, but in two central essays—"Alfred Hitchcock and the Prison of Mastery" and "'Psycho' and the Roller Coaster"—he shows us how Hitchcock's style dominated American film from the moment he emerged on the scene.

Recognition

"We owe him [Hitchcock] our sense of intricacy in film," he wrote, "but we must still wonder whether crowded detail fulfills or smothers the medium. His list of movies is guaranteed recognition, if only because it has labored so narrowly to ensure that no one else could have filmed a foot of it.

"But we settled too quickly for that authoritarian version of authorship. Signature is not enough. Without an enriching contribution to experience, it can merely be an insignia, like his own brief appearance in every film, a cute and ghostly trademark."

Thomson finds in Hitchcock the beginnings of the crisis in American filmmaking. "Hitchcock was too narrow-minded to recognize political, social, or moral distress," he asserts.

He condemns the horror-meister for his legacy of fear—"of life, spontaneity, and the viewer's free mind. With Hitchcock, the movie industry has promoted impact without substance, and has ordained the lowered gaze of the craftsman, as opposed to the outward alertness of a novelist."

Convincing argument

Hitchcock fans may disagree, but Thomson poses a convincing argument as to how the master caused American film to "turn its back on human richness and enlightenment." He acknowledges Hitchcock's wit and clever style but he is not enticed by them.

Thomson is an honest and humane critic, a rarity in a world full of hacks, and he cannot be seduced by cunning cinematic gimmicks, no matter how brightly they shine.

Thomson has written other books, including biographies of David O. Selznick and Warren Beatty, and "Rosebud: The Story of Orson Welles."

CNN remembers . . .

From p. G1

account of the elements that make the documentary a compelling viewing experience:

As we started to view "America Remembers," we were struck by the new footage that the documentary was able to show. It didn't stick to the old shots that everybody has become all too familiar with. Instead, it culled footage from a host of amateur videographers to provide a less predictable and more personal view of the tragedy as it unfolded.

Decision

We were also impressed with the production's decision not to show shots of the people trapped in the WTC towers jumping to their death. Less responsible TV people would have shown those horrific images to generate shock, transfixed viewership and higher ratings, but the CNN staffers knew better than to sink that low.

The fact that people did jump *was* talked about, but not shown. So, the horror was still there, but it didn't become exploitative and self-serving, and instead honored the memory of the terrorist attacks' many victims.

Personal view

A third strength of the documentary was its personal view of the tragedy. Relatives of the victims were given a chance to express their grief and love in specific terms, and even on-camera staffers were shown breaking down as the immense tragedy of the event eventually eroded their professional resolve.

And yet, their finally giving way to their emotions didn't make them come off as less than professional. They were still doing their job, but as people, not automatons, and the viewer understood.

Part 2 turned out to be less effective than the first part because it had to deal with what happened globally after the attacks, and its many-pronged approach tended to blur the documentary's focus with its welter of details. Thus, the documentary doesn't rise to a climax, but peters off.

Insightful

All told, however, "America Remembers" is a vivid, heartfelt and insightful viewing experience that occasionally sheds new, more personal light on the horror that was Sept. 11, 2001.

Replays: Part 1, 2 a.m., 3 p.m. and 10 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 18; 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 20; 5 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 7; and 2 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 8. Part 2, 2 a.m., 3 p.m., and 10 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 25; 9 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 27; and 3 p.m. and 10 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 8.

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM AUG 17 - AUG 23

CH	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	23	29	[illegible]
[illegible]	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Smart Ka Na Ba? 7:30 Arriba, Arriba 8:30 Mary d' Potter 9:30 Klasmeyts 10:00 Kakasa Ka ba? 10:30 Sapul Kayo Dyan 11:00 "F" 11:30 Sports Unlimited	4:00 Value Vision 6:00 To be Announced 9:00 Fox News 11:00 Business and Leisure	6:30 Wing Commander 7:00 Sailormoon Sailor Stars 7:30 Family Feud 8:30 Wow Mali! 9:30 Saturday Night *Ricky Martin Special* 11:30 Star Trek Voyager	5:30 Dragon Ball Z 6:00 Imbestigador 7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:00 Kakabakaba 9:00 Pinoy Blockbuster *Balahibong Pusa* 11:00 Master Showman	6:00 Entertainment Tonite 6:30 Hot Ticket 7:00 Largo 8:00 7 Days 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse *The Limey* 11:00 PGMA	4:00 PBA Game 1 6:00 PBA Game2 8:00 Star For A Night 9:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 10:00 Viva Box Office	5:30 Bewitched 7:00 Game Plan 7:30 7th Heaven 8:30 Gilmore Girls 9:30 Studio 23 Presents	7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras Ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 Celebrity Profile *Cybil Shepherd* 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story *Elvis: The Hollywood Years* 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 In Focus *Vegas Weddings*
[illegible]	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanataym 8:30 Home Along Da Riles 9:30 Sunday Family Cinemas 11:30 Off The Record 12:00 The Weekend News	7:00 Fox News 11:00 Unlimited Diving	6:00 Zorro 6:30 Guyferd 7:00 Price Is Right 8:00 Sing-Galing 9:00 The Big Night	5:30 Partners Mel & Jay 7:00 K! 8:30 Daddy Di Do Du 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office *Accidental Hero* 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents	6:00 Entertainment This Weekend 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Match TV 9:00 Sunday's Big Event *Blue Band* 11:00 Road Trip	4:00 PBA Game 1 6:00 PBA Game 2 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Sinemaks 11:00 Viva's Hot Hits	6:00 Travel Time 7:00 Exposed 7:30 Futurama 8:00 Grosse Pointe 8:30 Spin City 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 The Street 10:30 Twilight Zone	7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night movies	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 Elvis Alive on E! *Elvis on Tour* 9:00 *Elvis: That's the Way It Is* 11:00 *Jailhouse Rock*
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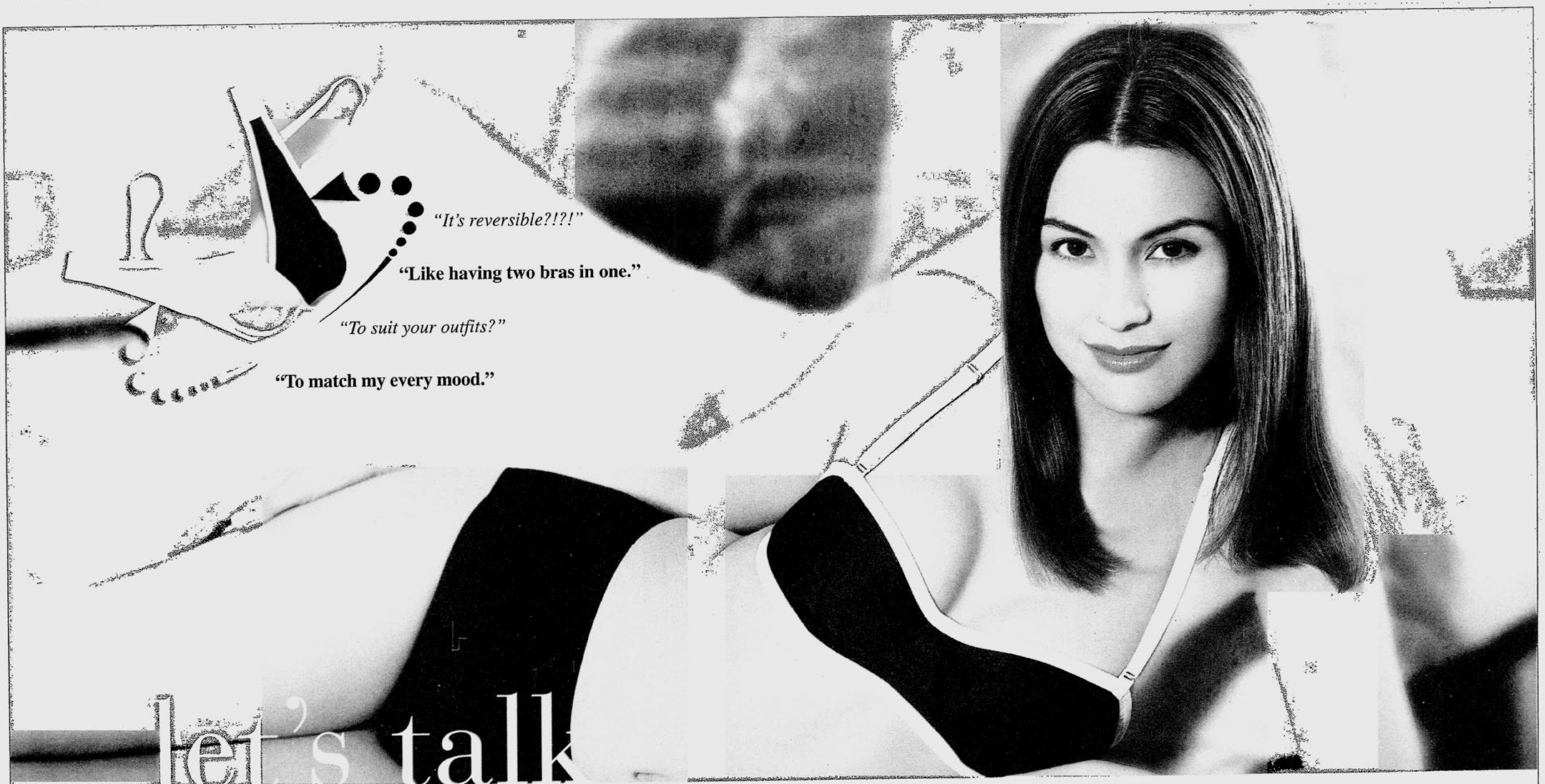

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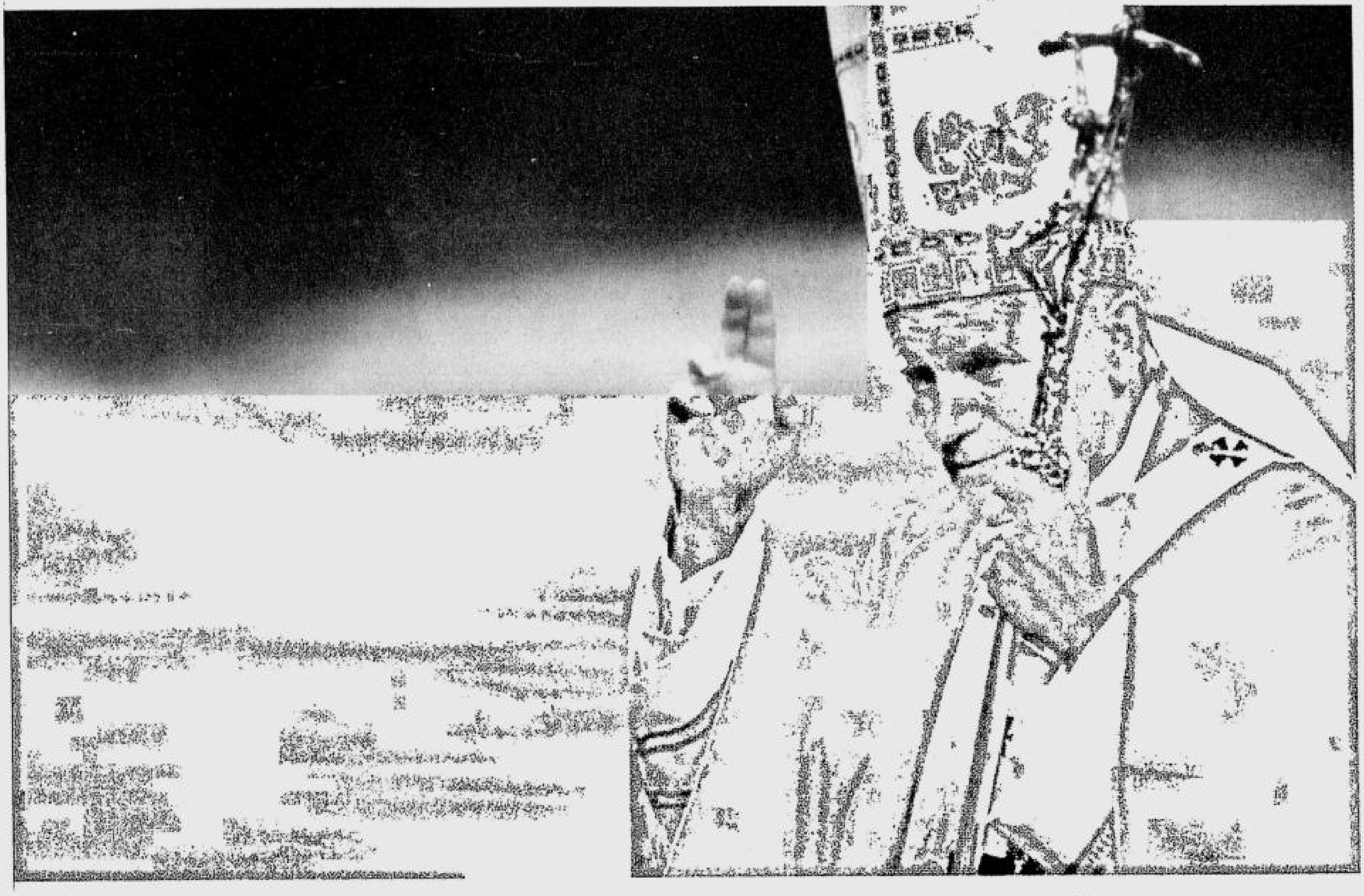

SMART is proud to be an official sponsor when families from around the world gather in one grand reunion - the 4th World Meeting of Families in Manila, January 23 to 26, 2003.

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And to highlight the celebration, let us be there to welcome His Holiness, Pope John Paul II.

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SMART is an Official Sponsor of The 2003 World Meeting of Families In Manila

This early, 2003 is shaping up to be a year of historical proportions for the Philippines. Because come January, the country will be proudly hosting the 4th World Meeting of Families in Manila.

Inaugurated in Rome, Italy in 1994, the World Meeting of Families brings together families from different nations and cultures. It serves as a forum to discuss various topics pertaining to family life and what answers the Roman Catholic Church can offer on these issues.

Every celebration is organized under a particular theme. The inaugural had the theme *"The Family: Heart of the Civilization of Love."* In 1997 at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the theme was *"Family: Gift and Commitment, Hope for Humanity."* The millennium celebration, again held in Rome, revolved on the theme *"Children: Springtime of the Family and Society."* Next year's celebration will have the theme *"The Christian Family: Good News for the Third Millennium."*

A part of the World Meeting of Families is the International Pastoral and Theological Congress. It is a gathering of bishops, priests, religious, and lay people, with the purpose of preparing the families for their actual meeting with the Pope – the highlight of the celebrations.

In line with all these, SMART Communications gives its support to this event as an official sponsor. Because SMART believes that any event that lends empowerment to society – with the family being its most basic unit – is surely worth supporting. SMART encourages everyone to prepare for and participate in the activities of the 4th World Meting of Families, which shall be graced by Pope John Paul II Himself.

For more information, you may get in touch with your local parish.

Magpatintero tayo!

Junior INQUIRER

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 2002 ✦ 12 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 6, NUMBER 45

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SALI KA?

(A tribute to Filipino games)

GAMES CHILDREN PLAY. Recess at F. Benitez Elementary School in Makati City sees children playing 'tumbang preso' to their hearts' content (left) even as kids along Norzagaray St. in Quiapo, Manila try to smash their tops on another hapless bunch.

RYAN HERNANDEZ

By Maria Zobel Certeza

EVERY kid loves to play. I remember spending all day outside with my friends running, jumping and hiding. Computer games weren't the in-thing then.

Let me share with you five of the games we used to play minus the electricity and the rental fees. All you need are physical skills and a lot of teamwork.

TUMBANG-PRESO. The key to winning this game is the ability to run fast. You don't have to have running shoes. All you need are a good pair of slippers and a tin can.

Somebody will be the *taya* and guard the can. The other players try to hit the can with their slippers and get them back before the *taya* manages to put the tin can back in place. When he does, he will try to chase and tap any of the the players to replace him.

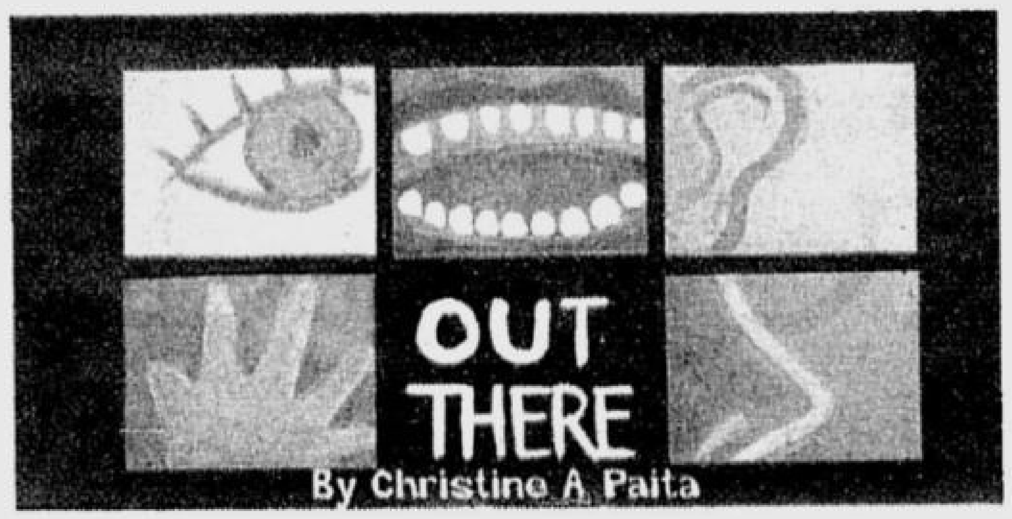
LUKSONG-TINIK. You'll be using your hands and feet to do the work. Two or more kids can play this. The *taya* will sit on the floor and make an obstacle using her hands and feet. With heel on the floor, the taya will place another heel on the toe of the other foot. Later, she'll put the tip of her little finger on the tip of the toe. Two people can make the obstacle higher by using two pairs of hands and feet. The other players jump over the obstacle, making sure sure that no part of their body touches the hands and feet of the *taya*. If that happens, they will have to replace the *taya*. This is a very good team game. Just be careful about jumping over the 'thorns.'

MORO-MORO or AGAWANG-BASE. This is another good team game. You can have as many members as long as you and the other team have an equal number of teammates. Each team guards its own base. All you have to do is try to tap as many members of the other team as you can. But be careful when guarding those you caught because if somebody from the other team gets the chance to tap one of his teammates who are imprisoned at your base, they will be considered saved and your team will lose.

TAGUAN (hide-and-seek). "*Tagu-taguan, maliwanag ang buwan. Pag-bilang ko ng sampu, nakatago na kayo. Isa, dalawa, tatlo…*" As the counting goes, this is the time for you to find a good hiding place. Because when the count is finished, the *taya* will begin looking for you. Your job is to go to the base without being caught, because if you are, it'll be your turn to look. So, hide really well!!!

PATINTERO. How well you manage to cross the paths without being tapped by members of the other group is the key to winning. You

Sali ka?/ p. 10


OUT THERE
By Christine A. Paita

Got something for Out There? Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

Workshops

WRITING FOR CHILDREN. The UP Creative Writing Center and Adarna House announce the call for applications to the Barlaya Writing for Children Workshop which will be held from October 10 to 12, 2002 at the University of the Philippines, Quezon City, and Adarna House. Interested applicants must submit 3 copies of their unpublished children's stories, written in English or Filipino, and a short resume to Adarna House, 73-A Scout Limbaga St., Brgy. Laging Handa, Quezon City. Deadline for submission of entries is on September 13. For more info, please call Allan Popa at 372-3548 to 49.

FUN AT JOLLIBEE. Kids ages 12 and below can check out Jollibee's lineup of workshops this August:

- August 17—Wormy Picture Frames, Jollibee Royal Family Mall
- August 24—Sculptured Balloon, Jollibee Kalookan-LRT; Do-it-yourself Magnet, Jollibee Grand Central; Clay Necklace, Jollibee Sta. Lucia Phase 1; Mushroom Accessories, Jollibee Robinsons Metro East
- August 25—Wormy Picture Frame, Jollibee Royal Family Mall
- August 31—Finger Painting, Jollibee Grand Central; JKW Sunvisor, Jollibee Sta. Lucia Grand Mall

For more info, please call 363-4690/363-7659 and look for Ghem, Ana or Joy, or email eserrano@info.com.ph.

Contests

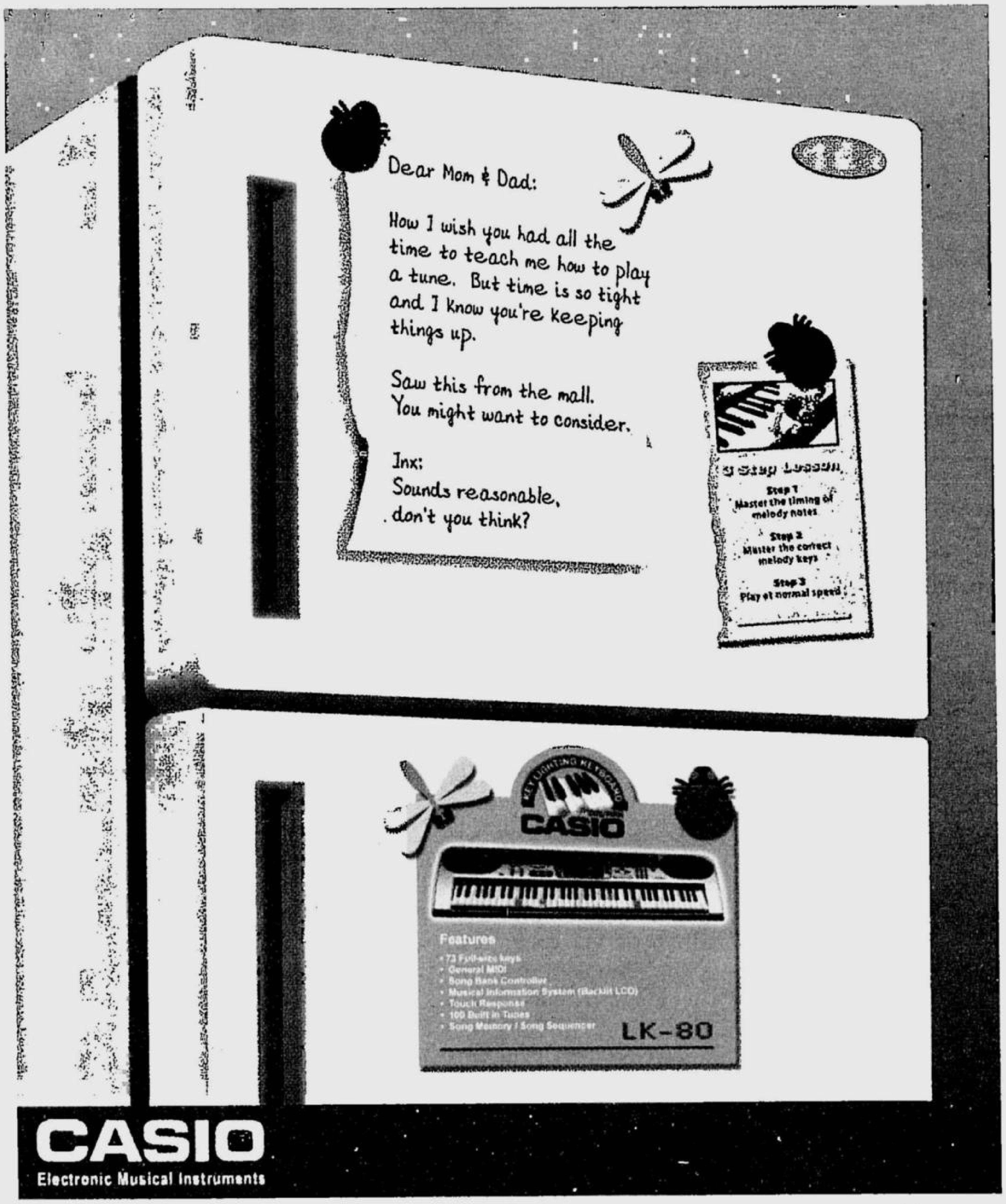
CHRISTMAS CARD. It's never too early to prepare for Christmas! Sacred Heart School invites kids ages 3-12 to join its On-the-spot Christmas Card Drawing Contest on September 28, 1-3 p.m., at the San Lorenzo Village covered court, #19 San Lorenzo Drive, San Lorenzo Village, Makati. For information and registration, please call SHS in any of the following branches: Malabon, 447-3371; San Lorenzo, Makati City, 815-3058; Shangri-La Edsa, Mandaluyong City, 636-1227; Forbes Park, Makati City, 840-5493; Caloocan, 334-1721, Glorietta 3, Makati City, 893-9079; and Sun Valley, Parañaque, 776-0312.

PBBY. Calling all writers, the Philippine Board on Books for Young People is now accepting entries for the 2003 PBBY-Salanga Writers' Prize. Entries may be in Filipino or English and must be typewritten double spaced on short bond paper. Those interested may submit more than one entry and send to the PBBY Secretariat, c/o Adarna House, Inc., 73-A Scout Limbaga St., Brgy. Laging Handa, Quezon City. Deadline for submission of entries is on November 5, 2002. For more info, please contact PBBY at tel nos. 372-3548 or 49, fax no. 372-4204, or send email to pbby@adarna.com.ph.

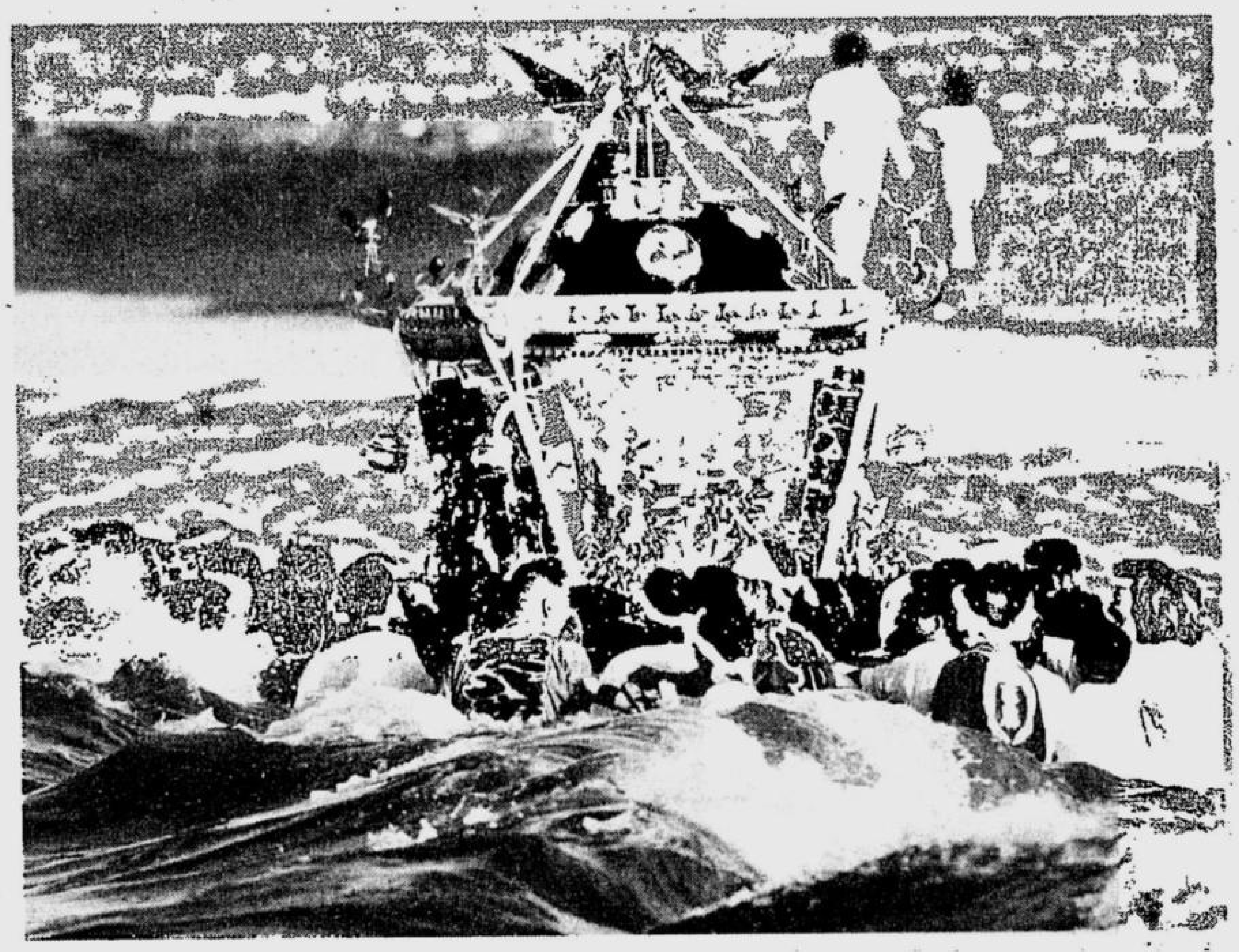
Events

FILMSHOWING. Get to watch your favorite Adarna book characters come to life in Adarna House's "Mga Kuwentong Pambata: Adarna Animation" at Museo Pambata. This film event in cel-

Out There/ p. 10



Dear Mom & Dad:
How I wish you had all the time to teach me how to play a tune. But time is so tight and I know you're keeping things up.
Saw this from the mall. You might want to consider.
Inx:
Sounds reasonable, don't you think?
3 Step Lesson
Step 1 Master the timing of melody notes
Step 2 Master the correct melody keys
Step 3 Play at normal speed
KEY LIGHTING KEYBOARD
CASIO
Features
• 73 Full-size keys
• General MIDI
• Song Bank Controller
• Musical Information System (Backlit LCD)
• Touch Response
• 100 Built in Tunes
• Song Memory / Song Sequencer
LK-80
CASIO
Electronic Musical Instruments

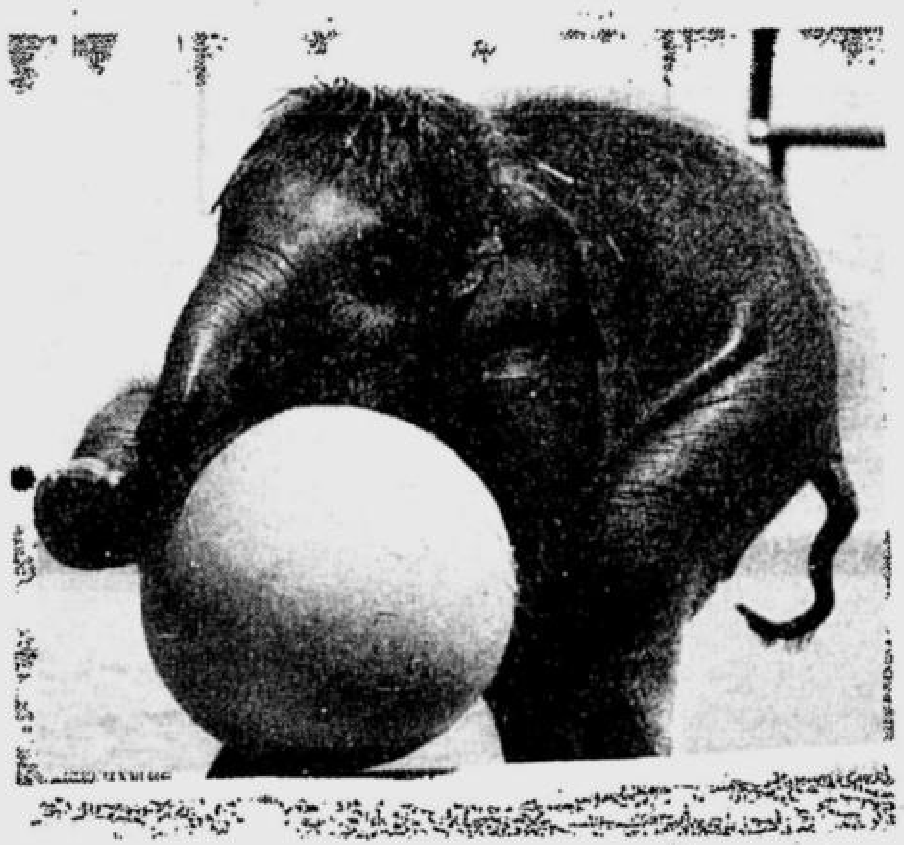


Watery Bayanihan

YOUNG and old carry the *mikoshi*, a portable shrine, into the sea for purification. The annual Hamaori Festival in Chigasaki originated from an old story about a shrine that was washed away by flood and later found by fishermen. *AP*

World Scope

Massachusetts, USA
Washington, D.C., USA
Chigasaki, Japan
Azza, Israel



Pachyderm Play

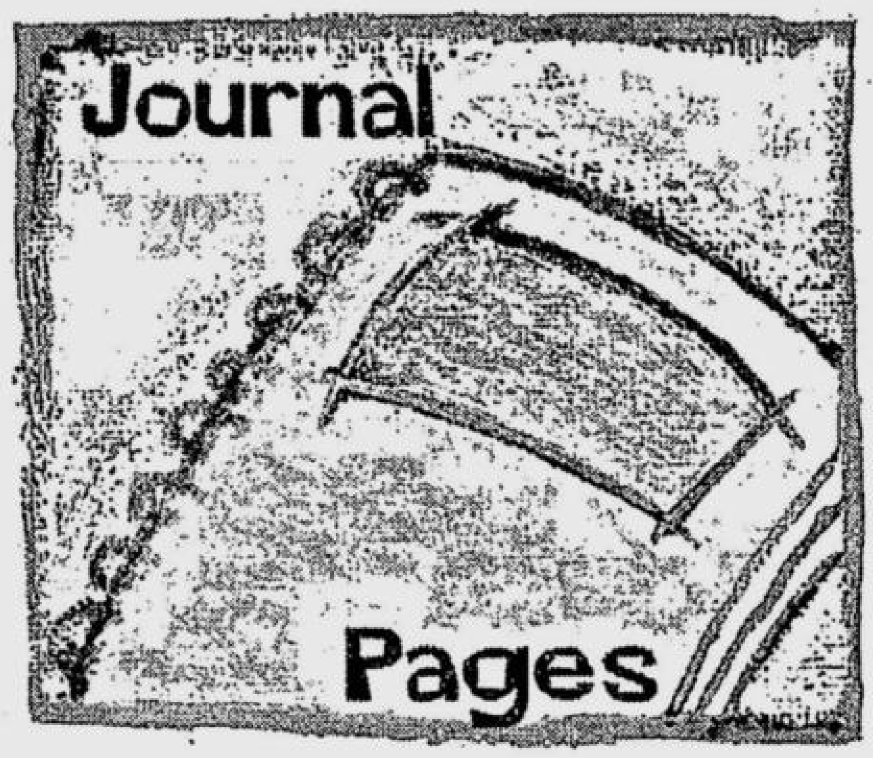
EIGHT-month-old Kandula, a male Asian elephant, pushes his ball out of the pool while trying to stay cool at the National Zoo in Washington, D.C. He is the first baby in the world to be born via the process of artificial insemination. *AFP*

Children of War

PALESTINIAN children play 'intifada,' or uprising, with toy guns in the Azza refugee camp near the West Bank town of Bethlehem in December 2000. Psychologists worry that an entire generation of Palestinian and Israeli children who live with a backdrop of violence will be unable to adapt to a future state of peace. *AFP*

Beached Pod on Cape Cod

RESCUERS help save 50 pilot whales stranded on Chapin Beach in Massachusetts. Volunteers kept the whales wet while waiting for high tide to return. Nine of the giant mammals died but the others were successfully refloated. *AP*



On Location with the Cast of "CLICK"

By Kara V. Guioguio
Miriam Grade School, Quezon City

EVER wonder how many takes an actor does just to make a scene perfect?

Last June 27-29, I spent the weekend with the cast and crew of GMA-7's youth-oriented show, "CLICK," during their location shoot in Hong Kong.

While I was watching the shoot, I realized that being an actor has several advantages and disadvantages. Some of the advantages being: you get to travel to locations local and international for shootings, see new places and meet new people. Plus sometimes, you are treated nice because you are an artist.

But being an actor has disadvantages, too! First, you can hardly sleep because you finish shooting at the break of dawn. Then you wake up early for another shoot. To top it all, you have to memorize your lines well. You are also not allowed to go anywhere else during the shoot and there is a lot of waiting around. By just watching the "CLICK" cast while shooting, I felt the hardships they went through while doing each scene.

I asked Ms Gloria Diaz, who plays the character Mamu in "CLICK," about her work as an artist and she said that being an artist isn't really that hard and it could be fun; but you should know your duties like learning your script and showing up early because there are

On Location/ p. 5

Sound Familiar ?

Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight From JI Readers

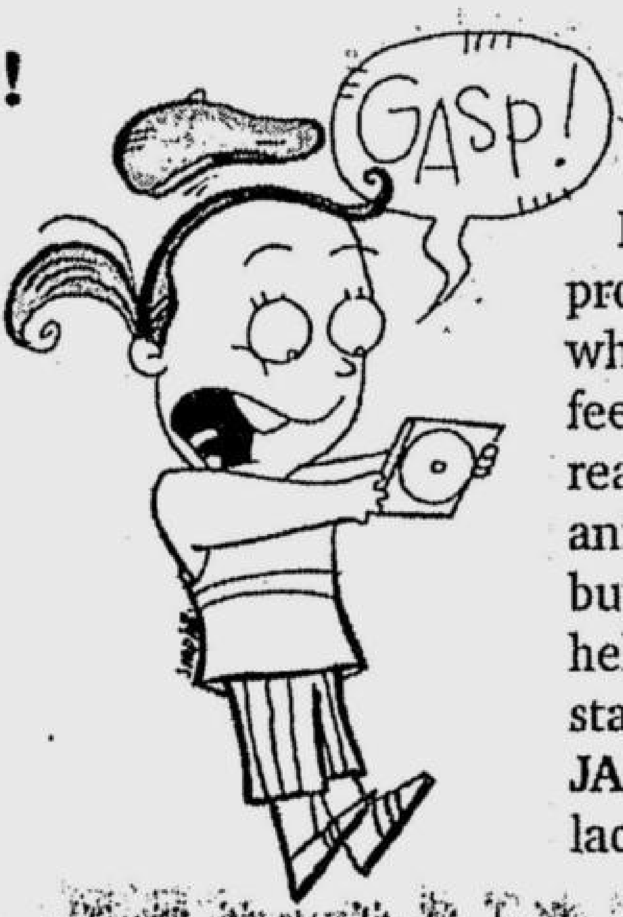
You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!

Attention: Anime Fans!

HELLO there! It's been quite some time since I last saw an anime issue on this page. But I'm not here to drool on anime or say how good or bad they are.

I am here (I'll be frank, ne?) to tell you (here goes) about PIRATED anime CDs (especially "Slam Dunk").

Last time I was browsing along stalls when I saw this "Slam Dunk" CD. I knew it wasn't a good thing. I mean, piracy to THIS extent?



Please do not patronize these products. I do know you want to see what happens next ahead of time. I feel the same way but it's not enough reason to buy pirated CDs. I am an anime fan myself but I don't think buying pirated CDs will be of any help. I do hope you understand!—**ESTHER MONICA TRAJANO**, 16, Holy Spirit Academy, Bulacan

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Philippines

On Location with the Cast of "Click"

(from page 4)

also others who are waiting for you.

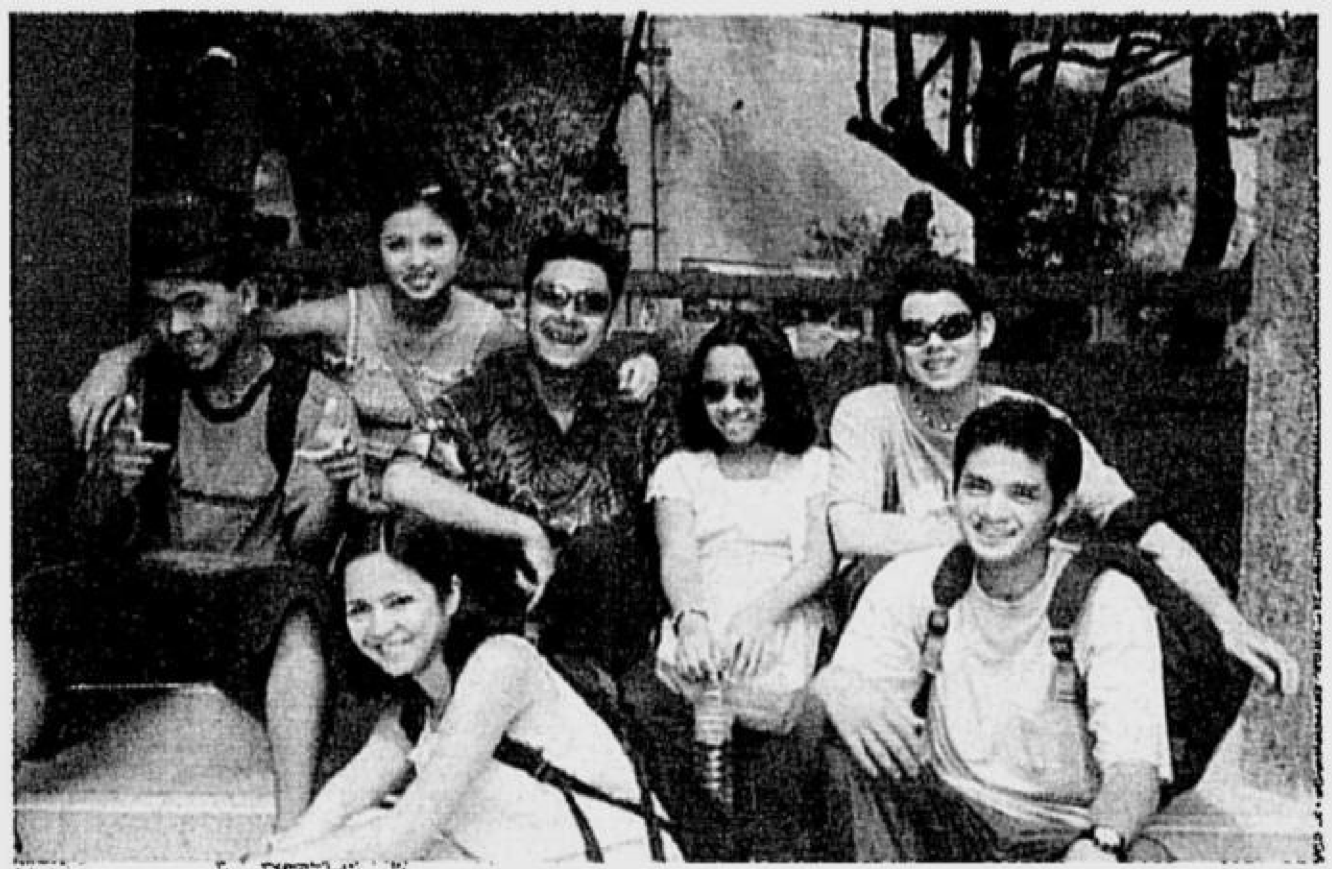
During the course of the shoot, I saw the cast do their best to make a scene perfect. I found Alessandra de Rossi as Ian and Karen delos Reyes as Weng do their scenes effectively and convincingly. I also noticed Angel Locsin as Charley, Dyan Delfin as Belle and Chynna Ortaleza as Mimi doing their scenes dressed smartly in fashionable clothes. As for the boys in the cast, their attire could be described as simple but comfortable.

I also observed the director of "CLICK" giving instructions to the artists—how they should enter, what they should do in a scene, etc.

In a location shoot, not only the cast, director and executive producers work hard. We must also acknowledge that behind the camera, there are also the crew and the production staff who also work just as hard.

My experience with the "CLICK" cast in Hong Kong made me realize that being an actor is hard. We must therefore appreciate each episode and thank the cast and crew of all the shows for making each episode special and memorable.

KARA (holding a water bottle) gets to mingle with the cast. From left: Bryan Revilla, Dyan Delfin, AJ Eigenmann, Richard Gutierrez, Railey Valeroso and Tricia Roman.



WITH Mamu Gloria Diaz

CASIO • JUNIOR INQUIRER

Search for 'Rrific Kids

3 Best Featured Kids For 2002

R U 'RRIFIC?

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honor list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're 'Rrific or know someone who is, just fill up the nomination form found in Kids R 'Rrific Page & Send to:

JUNIOR INQUIRER
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces
cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

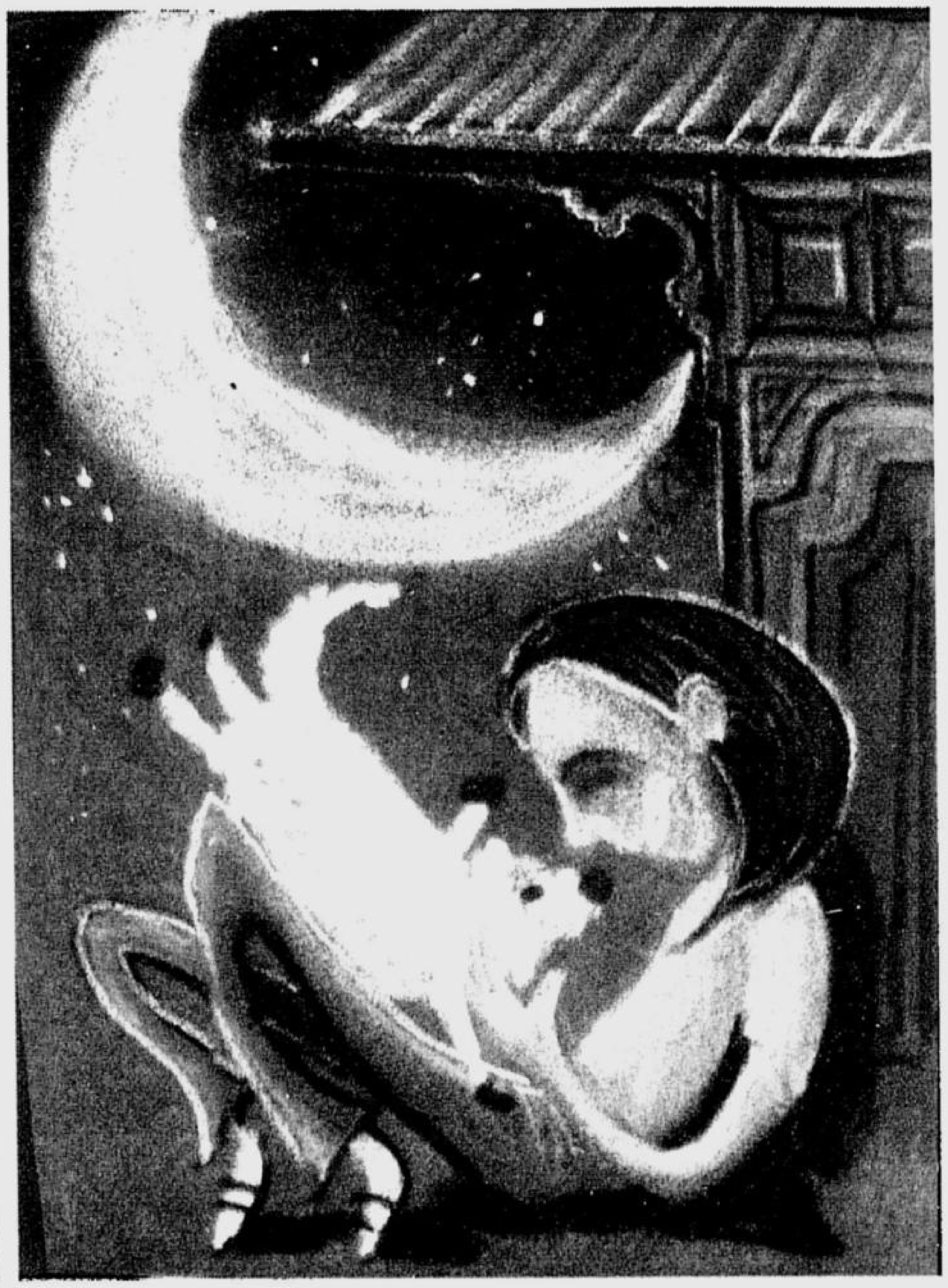
Junior Inquirer Kids 'r' 'rrific CASIO

Chosen nominees will be featured in the page, will get a FREE Junior Inquirer – CASIO EMI T-Shirt & a P300 DISCOUNT VOUCHER

CASIO JUNIOR INQUIRER P300

PLUS! At the end of the year, Top 3 'Rrfic Kids for 2002 will be chosen & shall bring home a

CASIO KEYLIGHTING KEYBOARD



For My MO

An Essay by Risa Halagueña
Art by Jomike Tejido

OUR FAMILY has been through this many times in the past but each time it's still painful. Moe made us all happy and he was the only one who could cheer me up on the worst of days. When he passed away today he was 6 years old, which is about my grandmother's age in dog years.

I was around 7 when we first lost a pet. Apple was a strange mix of this and that breed and she had the darkest fur and the most imploring eyes. We were at our breakfast table when Mom announced that Apple had passed away. I still recall bursting into tears and throwing such a big fit. I cried more over Apple's death than the time one of my grand aunts passed away.

A few years after, my dad raised German shepherds and we had five at one time. One of my best childhood memories was walking around the neighborhood with my parents and Angka, Arno, and Ana, my dad's precious ones.

> "I went inside the house, sat on the staircase and cried. I called up my friend Kathy to tell her what had happened."

And I'll never forget the time our house was almost robbed. Our dogs were so meek and gentle with us but that night they turned fierce and did everything to fend off the intruders. When they died our whole family mourned the loss of our brave and loyal friends.

WE'VE had so many pets since then that over the years the empty lot next to our house practically turned into a pet cemetery. Buried there are Lancer, Lady and Sandy coming from two generations of Dalmatians; Cookie, our affectionate and playful dachshund; and Hershey, a Chihuahua-dachshund puppy. Through many years we've had other kinds of pets come and go, too. We've had Mynah birds (Clifford I and Clifford II), geese, rabbits, guinea pigs, goldfish, turtles, a monkey (we babysat him for a neighbor of ours), kittens, chicks, and a silver arowana named Norman (we named our current pet arowana Norman II in his honor).

Today, we lay to rest Moe, our Maltese.

I had come home from school after another day of exams and was about to go inside the garage when my younger brother signaled to me to roll down my car window. He had a look of concern I rarely saw on his face.

"ATE, I have bad news. Moe is dead. He got run over." Worse, I thought that a reckless motorist was the culprit. It turned out our own driver Elmer had run over Moe! I was in shock as he apologetically explained how it had been an accident. I believed him; Elmer was as much of a pet lover as our family was. I just couldn't bear to hear

I went inside the
staircase and cried. I
Kathy to tell her wha
needed a friend who
and feel the loss I was
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back. One of my clos
reminded me that Mo
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I was so sad I had
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about what had happ

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and teasing "his hum
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Friend

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the gate. At night
dying at the lanai,
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d go back to his
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would attempt to
and a chase would
'd give up running
n" and let us carry

LAST Christmas, I woke up twenty minutes before the first dawn mass and was hurriedly opening the gate when Moe sneakily ran out.

"You picked a great time to play hide-and-seek, Moe," I thought to myself as I ran after him groaning since Moe's little game was going to make me late for mass.

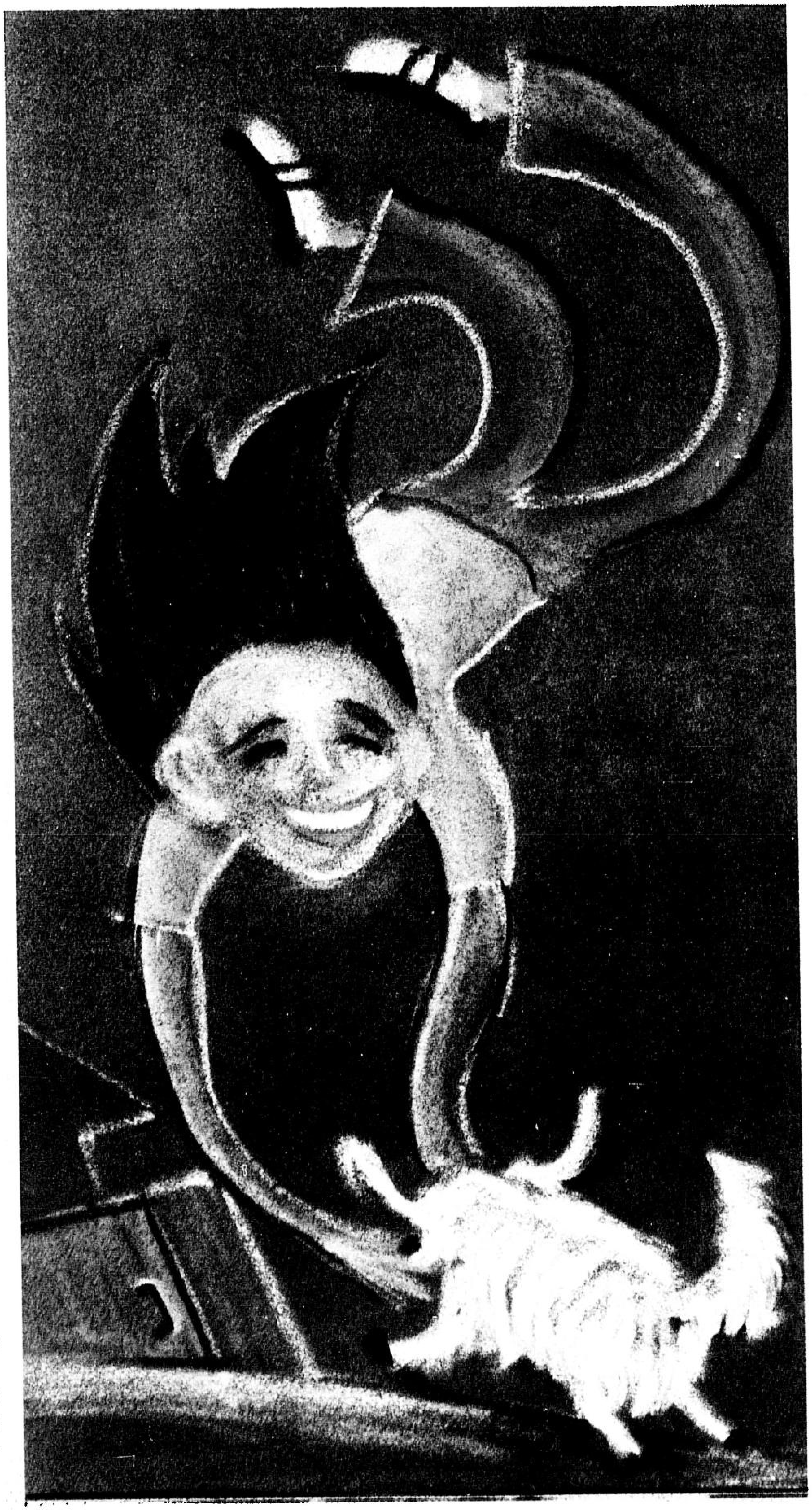
I'll even miss Moe's smelly breath and how he could never stay clean for very long. In spite of his problems with hygiene, seeing Moe would never fail to make all of us stop whatever it was we were doing to play with him. Even my dad would make this funny Donald Duck voice and do baby talk when Moe would place his paws on his lap. We also noticed that Santi, our Dalmatian, would get jealous at all the attention her little friend was getting (I preferred cuddling with Moe over getting big sloppy wet kisses from her).

I read once that when pets die they take with them their memories of life on earth, how they liked the smell of their food, chasing after cats or how nice it was to be given a belly rub everyday.

You were such a good dog, Moe. Wherever you are, I hope you have great memories of our times together. Maybe one day we can do a game of hide-and-seek again, up there with all the other dogs who have gone to heaven.

***Risa** is 22 years old. An earlier essay entitled "Dognapped!" came out in JI last year and featured Moe's mom Alex.*

***Jomike** is taking up Architecture at the University of Sto. Tomas in Manila. He is the creator of the comic strip "Mikrokosmos."*



Play me a song Mr. Piano Man

This 13-year-old dreams of playing at the Carnegie Hall in New York

By Maria Zobel Certeza

WOLFGANG Amadeus Mozart, Ludwig van Beethoven, Albert Napoleon Jola Roldan...Huh?

You're probably thinking, "Albert Napoleon Jola Roldan who? Ah, but in the near future, you'll be hearing pieces from this 13-year-old kid, who'll probably be as famous someday as those classical artists we know.

Albert started playing the piano when he was just 4 years old. Albert's mom, Cecille, recalls that they always listened to Tchaikovsky and other classical pieces around the house.

"I didn't know how to operate the stereo then," Albert says smiling, "that's why I learned to appreciate the music my parents listen to." He loves to play Richard Clayderman and "Clair de Lune" pieces.

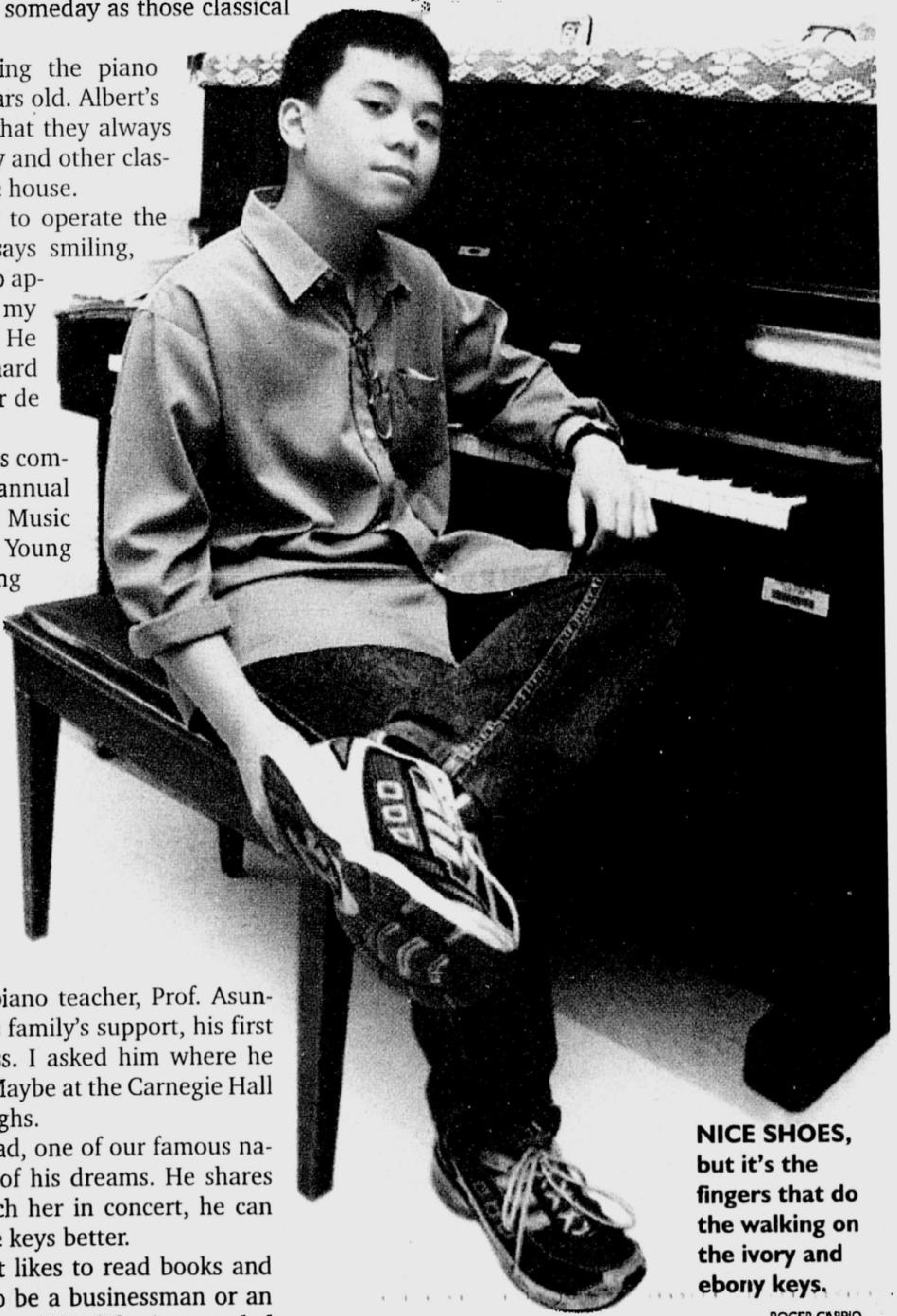
Albert joined various competitions like the annual NAMCYA (National Music Competition for Young Artists). At his young age, this Southridge Private High School sophomore had his first taste of applause when he had his solo concert last February at the Greenhills Christian Fellowship in Ortigas Center.

"I was really nervous at the beginning," Albert recalls. But inspired by his piano teacher, Prof. Asuncion Laureola and his family's support, his first concert was a success. I asked him where he wants to play next. "Maybe at the Carnegie Hall in New York?" he laughs.

Meeting Cecile Licad, one of our famous national artists, is one of his dreams. He shares that if he could watch her in concert, he can learn how to play the keys better.

This future Mozart likes to read books and says that he wants to be a businessman or an economist in the future. "*Hindi kasi umuunlad yung bansa, eh,*" he said. This piano artist said that he also wants to venture into retail. "Maybe a food retailing company would be good," he said arranging his glasses.

Well, he can be whatever he wants to be in the future, as long as he's as passionate about it as he is in playing the piano.



NICE SHOES, but it's the fingers that do the walking on the ivory and ebony keys.

ROGER CARPIO

R U 'RRIFIC?

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're 'Rrific' or know someone who is, fill out the the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces
cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a

FREE Junior Inquirer & CASIO EMI T-shirt, Plus! a chance to win a Keylighting keyboard!

Kids'r'rrific nomination form

I nominate: ____________________

Age: ____________________

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because: (Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)

She/he lives at ____________________

and studies at ____________________

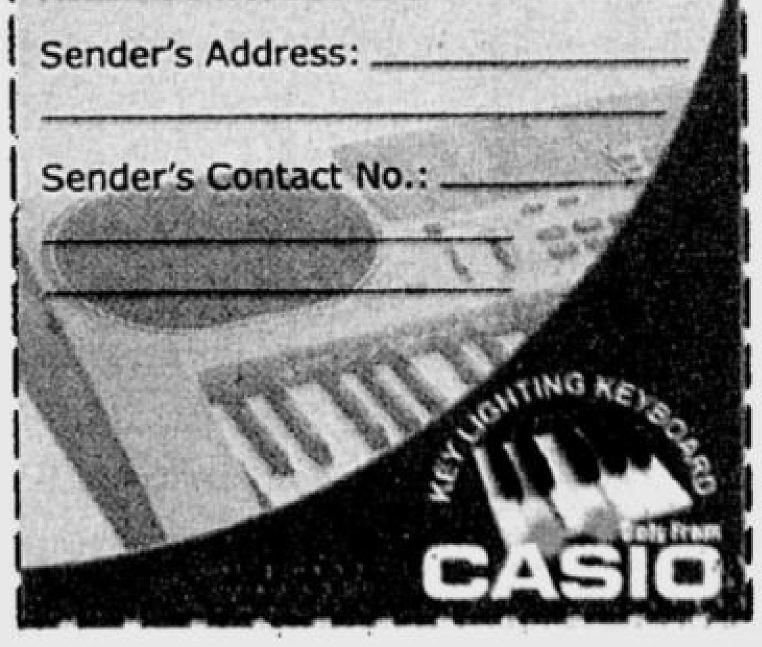
Her/his contact number is: ____________________

Sender's Name: ____________________

Sender's Age & School: ____________________

Sender's Address: ____________________

Sender's Contact No.: ____________________



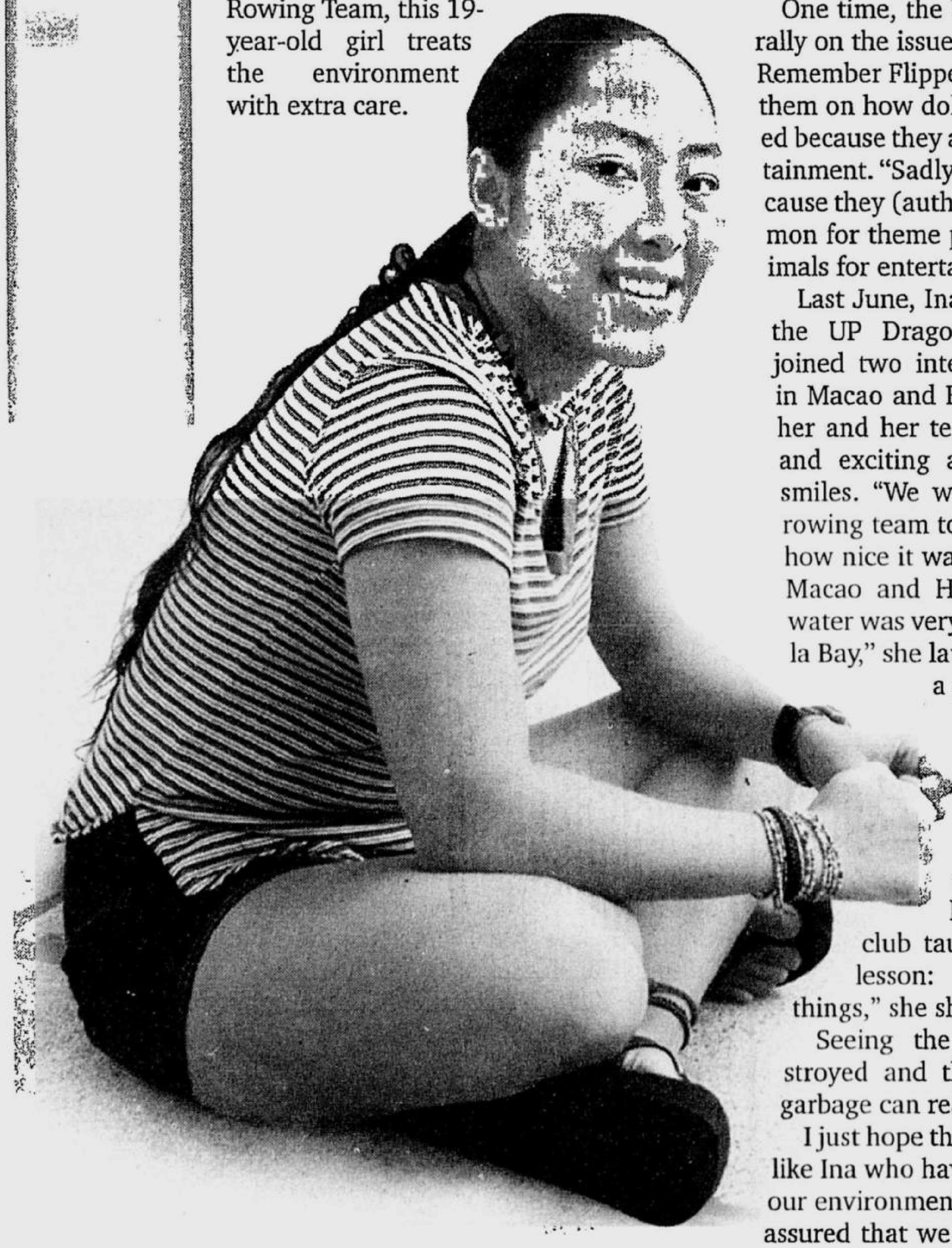
CARING EXTRA FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

She's into theater but she's also very much into dragon boats and the environment

By Maria Zobel Certeza

TREES, the mountains, the ocean. Ordinary everyday things. But meeting Lenina Ocampo taught me how to look at them in a different way.

Being a member of some of UP's environmental organizations like the UP Mountaineers, Haribon and Dragon Boat Rowing Team, this 19-year-old girl treats the environment with extra care.



ROW, ROW, ROW your boat gently up the stream, a clean and healthy environment is Ina's fondest dream. MIKE ALQUINTO

"You cannot just climb mountains, you have to learn at our basic mountaineering course some pointers, like how the ecological system works," she shares. Ina, as her friends call her, adds that one should consider how to preserve the environment during a climb.

One time, the UP Haribon once had a rally on the issue of protecting dolphins. Remember Flipper? His trainer educated them on how dolphins' rights are violated because they are being used for entertainment. "Sadly, the case was closed because they (authorities) said it was common for theme parks to use marine animals for entertainment," she adds.

Last June, Ina and her teammates in the UP Dragon Boat Rowing team joined two international competitions in Macao and Hong Kong, the first for her and her teammates. "It was scary and exciting at the same time, she smiles. "We were the first Philippine rowing team to join." Ina remembered how nice it was to row in the rivers of Macao and Hong Kong because the water was very clean. "Unlike in Manila Bay," she laughs, "it's like rowing in a garbage can." They won 4th place in Macao out of 12 teams and placed 6th in Hong Kong out of 25 teams. *Galing!*

The UP Theater Arts student shared that belonging to these kinds of club taught her one important lesson: "You learn to value things," she shared.

Seeing the mountains being destroyed and the seas filling up with garbage can really be depressing.

I just hope that there are more people like Ina who have a genuine concern for our environment. In this way, we can be assured that we will have a better environment in the future.

Do you know a grown-up who

- is fun to be with
- has an exciting job
- keeps an amazing hobby
- is all of the above???

If you know a grown-up whom all kids will love, give him or her the stamp:

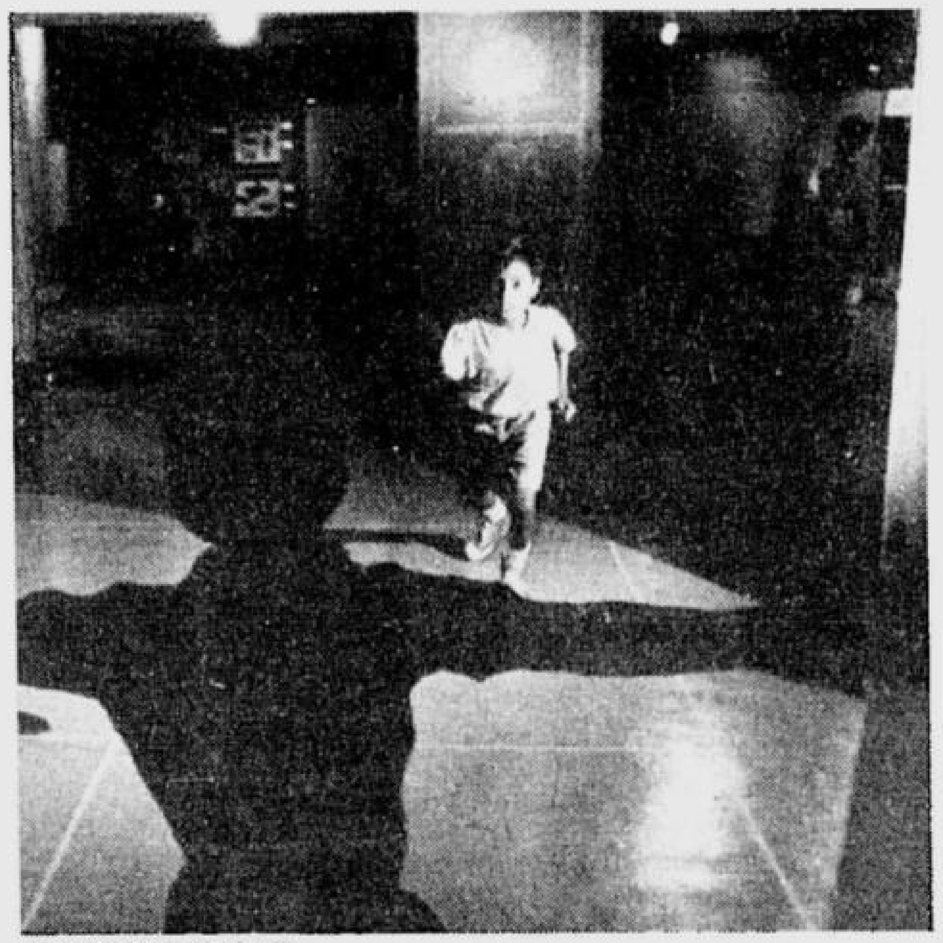
A.K.A. COOL

Just fill out the nomination form below and tell us why your fave grown-up is the absolute coolest. If your nominee is chosen, ***YOU'LL*** *get a free JI T-shirt! Now that's really cool.*

A.K.A. COOL
is an 'adult known as cool'
They're the folks
in our own family
Or the people
we meet in school.

I nominate ______________.
He/She is ________ years old and
is my ________________.
Here are five super solid reasons why I think you should write about him/her:
1)________________________;
2)________________________;
3)________________________;
4)________________________;
5)________________________.

My nominee lives a__________
______________________.
Give him/her a call at ________
or send him/her an e-mail at ____
____________________.
By the way, I'm __________
____________________.
I'm__________years old.
My address is______________
____________________.
You may call me at__________
____________________.



PATINTERO

Sali ka? (from page 1)

can have as many as 5 members on each team. First you draw markings on the ground for the *taya*. There are three stages to cross. Watch out for the last stage where they put the *patotot*, who is usually the best and fastest member of the team. All the members of your team will have to cross the field without being tapped. If one member of the team is tapped, the game is over and you will exchange places with the other team.

These games can be very tiring. But it builds closer friendships unlike computer games where you're just stuck in a chair. So stretch those muscles and start playing!!!

LUKSONG-TINIK

Junior INQUIRER

The Search for Stitch winners

1 Joana Marie P. Macalinao of Marikina City
2 Ezra Hallel B. Cruz of Greenwoods Exec. Village, Pasig City
3 Rebecca Victoria R. Rosales of Bgy. Sto. Domingo Quezon City
4 Kristine Joy F. Velasco of Proj. 6, Q.C.
5 Isidro Luis Borromeo of Mandaluyong City
6 Bernice Mendoza of Capitol Hills, Q.C.
7 Arielle Rosete of Loyola Grand Villas Q.C.
8 Alona M. Fernando of New Manila, Q.C.
9 Rachelle Ann Austero of Bacoor , Cavite
10 Benjamin Co of Santolan Road San Juan
11 Marie Eiko A. Abella of Molino Bacoor ,Cavite
12 Monica Selina R. Santos of New Manila Q.C.
13 Eleomer R. Aringo of Muntinlupa City
14 Howard M. Amoroso of Vasra Village, Quezon City
15 Rosalie Colarina of La Colina Subd., Antipolo City
16 Marianne Ives B. Saberon of Pilar Village Las Pinas City
17 Bian Carla B. Estrella of Balintawak, Caloocan City
18 Justin Edward L. Reyes of Don Carlos Village Pasay City
19 Cherissa T. Jacalan of Bacoor , Cavite
20 Milena Cassandra Gamboa of San Miguel Village Makati City
21 Sofia Aimie D. Magalong of Barangka Drive Mandaluyong City
22 Ma. Theresa R. Mendoza of Ciudad Grande Sta. Rosa Laguna
23 Miguel Ymmanoel S. Galimao of West Crame, San Juan
24 Allyanna Alexa S. Peralta of Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City
25 Cheli Basa of South Admiral Village Paranaque
26 Lorisse M. Ramirez of Talon 3 Las Pinas
27 Veronica Consunji of Loyola Grand Villas Q.C.
28 Denise Loren R. Torres of Bayana, Muntinlupa City
29 Louie Abalos of Cuevas Compound, Bacoor, Cavite
30 Sachcha Chua Shrestha of Palma Street Makati City

Please claim your prize at the Marketing Deparment of Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Ave., cor. Yague & Mascardo sts., Makati City or call 899-4427 and look for Ms. Masoy Cabuhat.

Disney's [illegible] Stitch
In Cinemas August 14

Out There (from page 2)

ebration of Linggo ng Wika will be held on August 24 and 31, Saturdays; screening time would be 3 and 4 p.m. for Aug. 24 and 2 and 4 p.m. for Aug. 31.

NBS SALE. National Book Store's Cut Price Sale is back! Get as much as 70% off on all books and selected school and office supplies from Aug. 14 to Sept. 15. Discounted titles for kids include the Harry Potter Sticker books, Disney and Rugrats storybooks, and the Nancy Drew and Hardy Boys series. Buyers also get a free carry-all foldable bag for every P1,000 worth of purchase. Visit any National Book Store branch for inquiries.

Books

AUTHOR OF THE MONTH. Dick King-Smith, author of well-loved children's books such as "Babe, the Gallant Pig" and "Harriet's Hare," is National Book Store's author of the month. King-Smith grew up in England surrounded by pet animals. He was voted Children's Author of the Year at the 1992 British Book Awards and has written more than 100 books. Don't miss his other well-loved stories—"A Mouse Called Wolf," "The Stray," and Martin's Mice."

Cable Pick

CHIMP TODDLERS. Meet Keeli and Ivy, two toddler chimps. Keeli is easygoing, while Ivy is serious and temperamental, but both enjoy socializing and learning under Dr. Sally Boysen's care. Learn about the evolution of intelligence through Keeli and Ivy's life in captivity in "Keeli and Ivy: Chimps Like Us." Premieres on Saturday, August 17, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Animal Planet.

Atbp.

BE A MUSEO VOLUNTEER. Do you like to be with kids? If telling stories, teaching arts and crafts, and touring kids around the museum appeal to you, then you could be an official Museo Pambata volunteer! Come and attend the General Orientation at the Resource Center. For inquiries, please call Noreen Parafina at 523-1797 to 98.

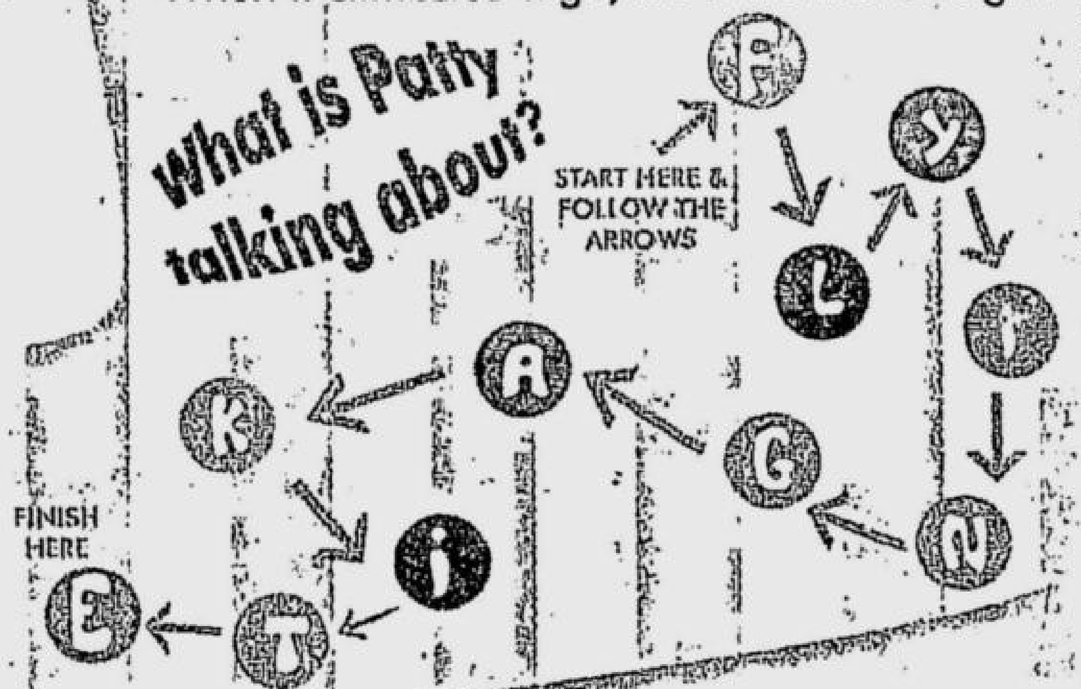
THE LUNCH BOX

by Katrina B. Villa

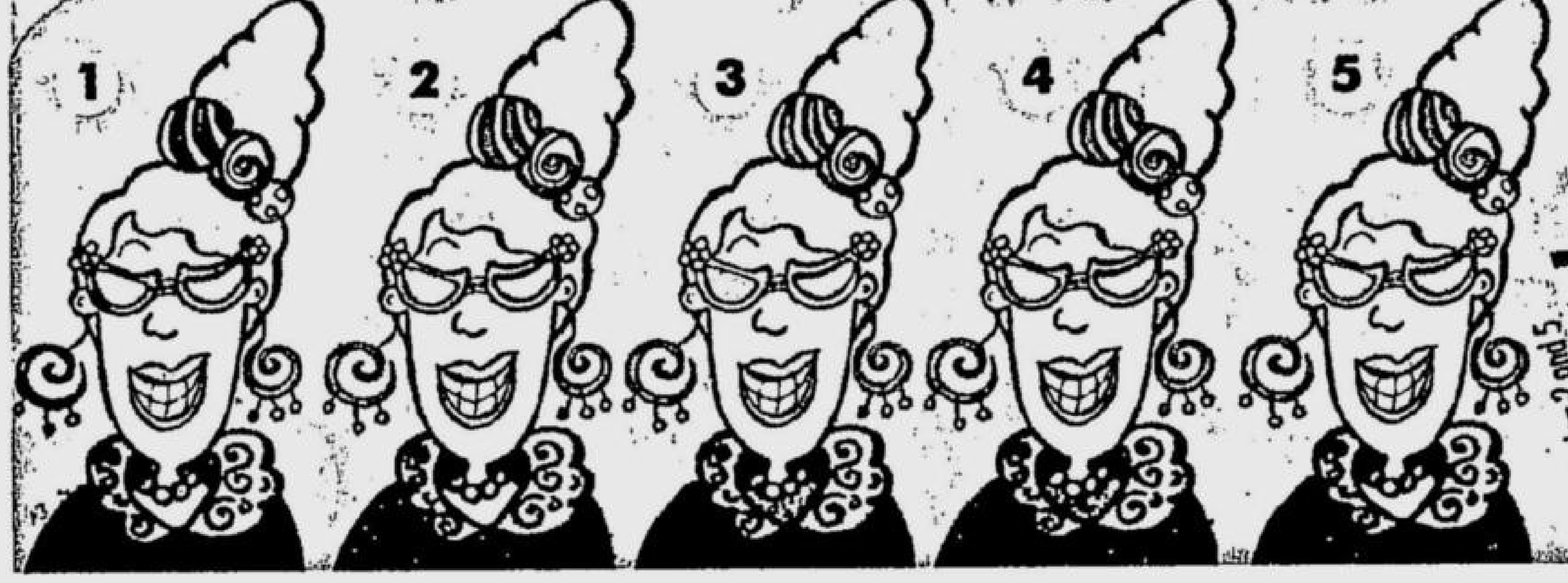
answer: flying a kite

Poetic Patty's Parlor

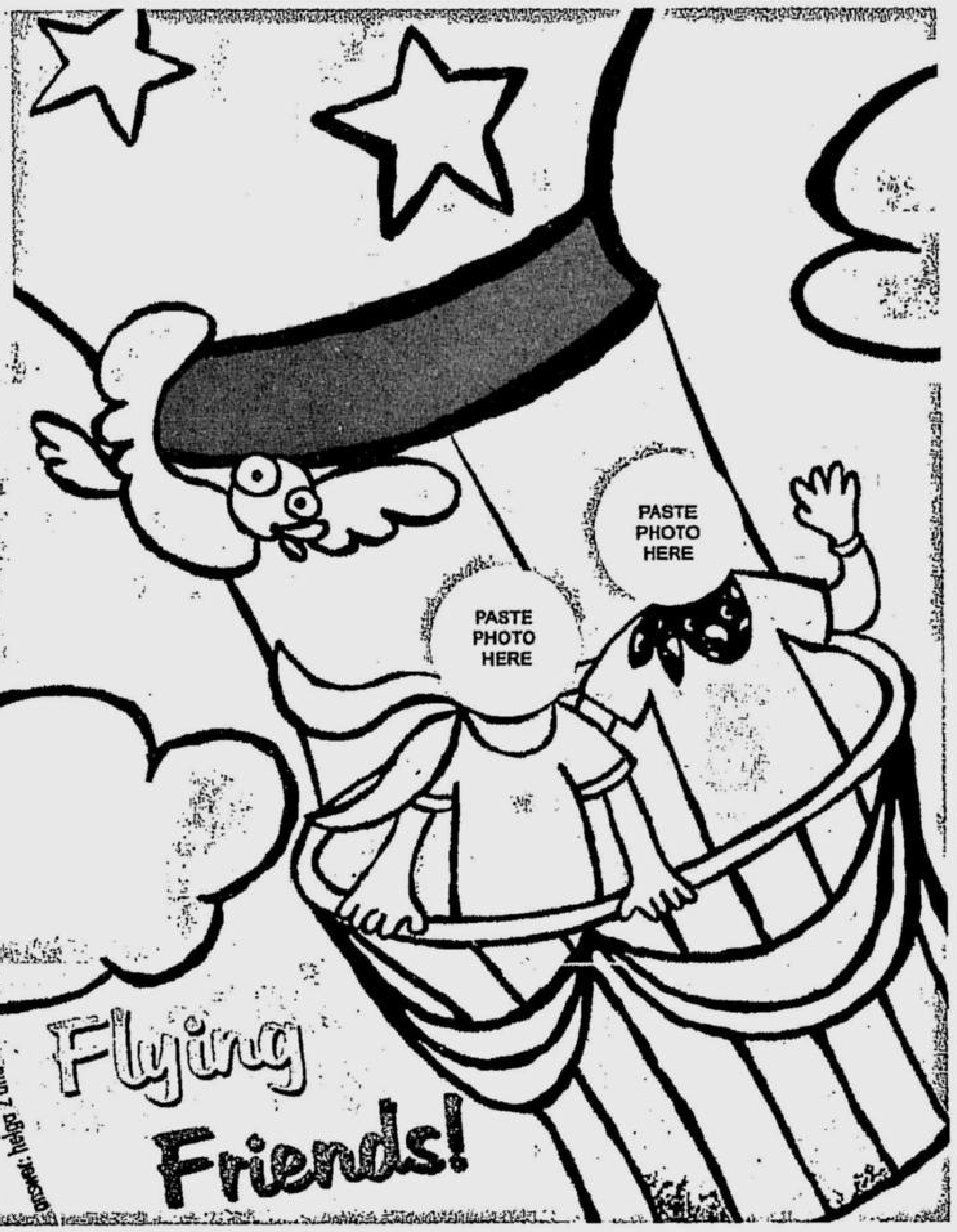
When the sun is out, it twirls about
When the wind is strong, it tags along
When it climbs so high, it's a wonderful sight!


What is Patty talking about?
START HERE & FOLLOW THE ARROWS
F
L
Y
I
N
G
A
K
I
T
E
FINISH HERE

SO MANY AUNTIE HELGAS

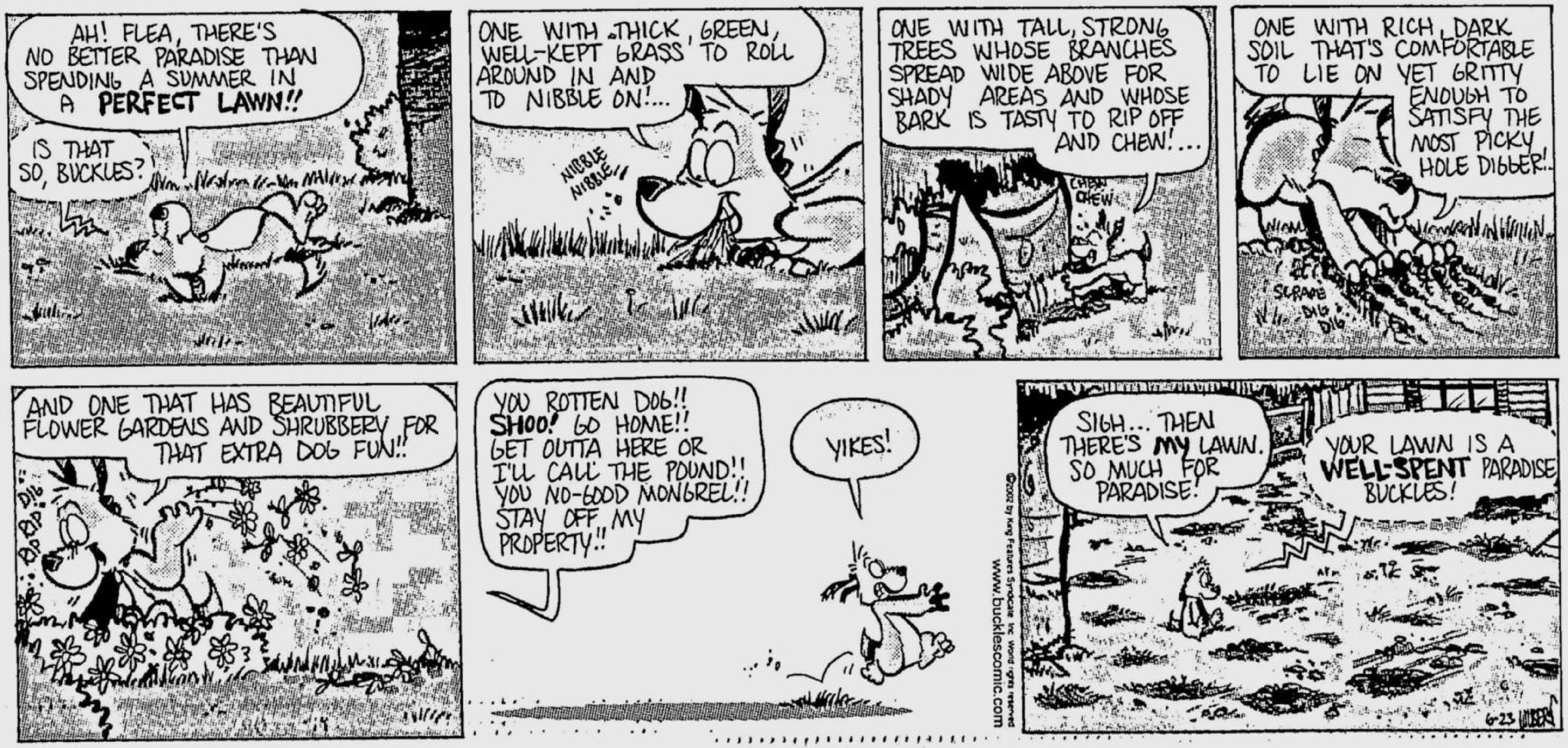


answer: helga 2 and 5.


PASTE PHOTO HERE
PASTE PHOTO HERE
Flying Friends!

BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT


AH! FLEA, THERE'S NO BETTER PARADISE THAN SPENDING A SUMMER IN A PERFECT LAWN!!
IS THAT SO, BUCKLES?
ONE WITH THICK, GREEN, WELL-KEPT GRASS TO ROLL AROUND IN AND TO NIBBLE ON!...
NIBBLE NIBBLE
ONE WITH TALL, STRONG TREES WHOSE BRANCHES SPREAD WIDE ABOVE FOR SHADY AREAS AND WHOSE BARK IS TASTY TO RIP OFF AND CHEW!...
CHEW CHEW
ONE WITH RICH, DARK SOIL THAT'S COMFORTABLE TO LIE ON YET GRITTY ENOUGH TO SATISFY THE MOST PICKY HOLE DIGGER!..
SCRAPE DIG DIG
AND ONE THAT HAS BEAUTIFUL FLOWER GARDENS AND SHRUBBERY FOR THAT EXTRA DOG FUN!!
DIG RIP RIP
YOU ROTTEN DOG!! SHOO! GO HOME!! GET OUTTA HERE OR I'LL CALL THE POUND!! YOU NO-GOOD MONGREL!! STAY OFF MY PROPERTY!!
YIKES!
SIGH... THEN THERE'S MY LAWN. SO MUCH FOR PARADISE!
YOUR LAWN IS A WELL-SPENT PARADISE BUCKLES!
6-23 GILBERT

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Nestlé®

Chuckie Chocoventure

DEFYING THE WALLS OF DOOM

AMAZING WINNERS

For choosing the right solution, these ten kids win a Nokia 3310 prepaid phone kit!

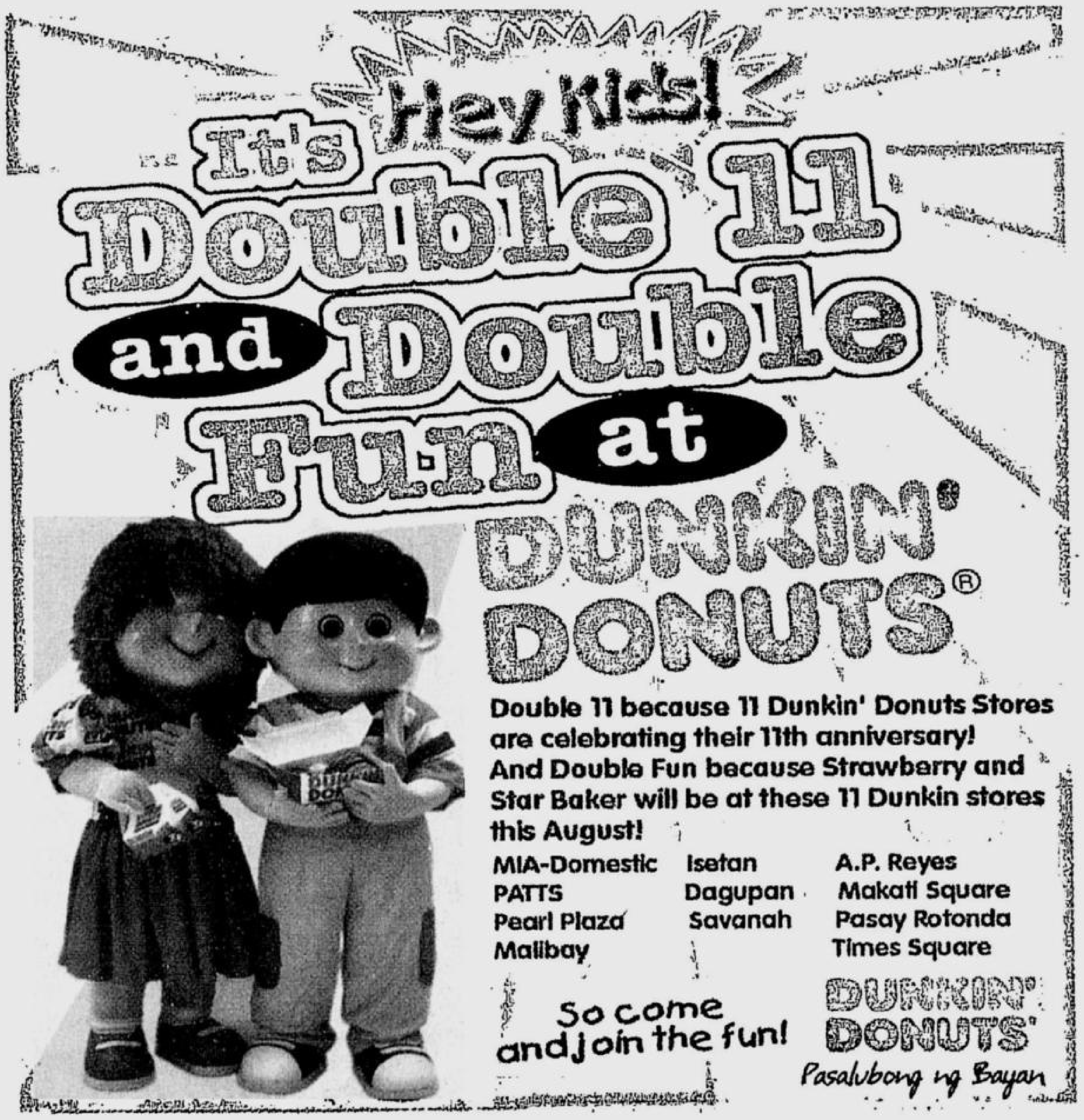
1. Marc Anthony Pablo
2. Adrian O. Nieva
3. Catherine Camille Carvajal
4. Lorris Joy B. Sing
5. Geline Clemente
6. Paulo B. Alunan
7. Miguel Nico Cruz
8. Cesar Valondo
9. Veronica Ylagan
10. Ryan Morandarte

So where did we get that brilliant fix?
From our pack of Nestlé Chocolate Milk Drink!
The more packs you have,
the more amazing solutions you can think of!

These ten kids are right! To escape the Walls of Doom, me and my buddy simply put our packs together to clog the walls from shutting close!

Winners may claim their prizes at McCann-Erickson, 34/F GT Tower, Ayala Ave. cor. H. V. dela Costa St., Makati City. Look for Mr. Gail Riofrio, Mondays to Fridays, 10am-7pm. Be sure to present your I.D and the cellphone you used in joining the contest. Prizes will only be released to the listed winners. If you have any questions, call 814-6155.

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0578 Series of 2002


Hey Kids!

It's Double 11 and Double Fun at DUNKIN' DONUTS®

Double 11 because 11 Dunkin' Donuts Stores are celebrating their 11th anniversary! And Double Fun because Strawberry and Star Baker will be at these 11 Dunkin stores this August!

MIA-Domestic
PATTS
Pearl Plaza
Malibay
Isetan
Dagupan
Savanah
A.P. Reyes
Makati Square
Pasay Rotonda
Times Square

So come and join the fun!

DUNKIN' DONUTS'
Pasalubong ng Bayan

Name the Game

Thinkathon
BY BONG ALAMEDA

IN which game or sport will you hear or read about each set of terms listed below? Time limit is 90 seconds. Go!

1. apron, casual water, scuffing, gimme, brassie, albatross

2. moon ball, poach, open face, blitz, fifteen, down-the-T shot

3. peanut bag, on one's bicycle, cauliflower ear, glass jaw, cornerman

4. lollipop, goat's beard, fungo bazooka, beanball, sacrifice

5. horse, flip-flop, scissors, aerial cartwheel, giant swing, tuck

6. sizzling the pits, dig, facial, candy cane, bump pass, double block

7. break time, balestra, reprise, underplastron, foible, taking the blade

8. grinder, laying out the ball, mother-in-law, loft, baby split

9. roll cage, slingshot, dogging, T-bone, nerf bar, pole position

10. Hail Mary, thread the needle, wishbone, butt block, line of scrimmage

11. far side cradle, slam, crossface, chicken wing, half-nelson, escape

12. flying camel, Zamboni, serpentine, Lutz, free-dance, Salchow

Answers:

1. golf
2. tennis
3. boxing
4. baseball
5. gymnastics
6. volleyball
7. fencing
8. bowling
9. auto racing
10. American football
11. wrestling
12. skating

Ratings:

superbrain!
11-12

excellent!
9-10

good!
6-8